I'm not Abalos' mistress, says woman

RAFFY LERMA

EVELYN Catherine Silagon

By Kristine L. Alave

SHE'S BEEN IN PUBLIC relations, but nothing prepared her for the image crisis that would befall her after being exposed in an explosive, televised hearing as the alleged mistress of Commission on Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos.

The single mother whose name Sen.

I'M NOT/ A18

SPORTS / A27

Eagles force do-or-die match with Archers for UAAP Finals slot

LIFESTYLE/ F3

Iconic shirt for boxing icon

LIFESTYLE/ C2

No more hiding for gorgeous model-doctor

BUSINESS / B1

RP stocks at 8-week high; Asian shares at record peaks

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Friday, September 28, 2007 ★★ 17 sections / Vol. 22 / No. 292 P18 website: www.inquirer.net

Red-faced Miriam says sorry to China

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

MADALI KASING KUMULO ANG DUGO

AN EMBARRASSED Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago yesterday apologized for saying that China "invented corruption" during a heated hearing on

RED-FACED/ A8

Neri faces more grilling

He can provide GMA's direct link to NBN–Cayetano

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan, Michael Lim Ubac and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

ROMULO NERI IS NOT YET IN the clear, according to senators bent on getting the complete story of how the Arroyo administration came to approve the $329-million deal with China's ZTE Corp. despite a purported bribe offer.

Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano, chair of the blue ribbon committee, yesterday said he believed that the former director general of the National Economic and Development Authority could provide the missing piece in the story that would "directly link" President Macapagal-Arroyo to the corruption scandal.

Cayetano, who heads the joint inquiry into the National Broadband Network (NBN) deal awarded to ZTE, said the blue ribbon, trade and defense committees would discuss on Monday how to challenge Neri's continued invoking of executive privilege to evade questions on the President's involvement.

If the senators are not convinced that

NERI FACES/ A18

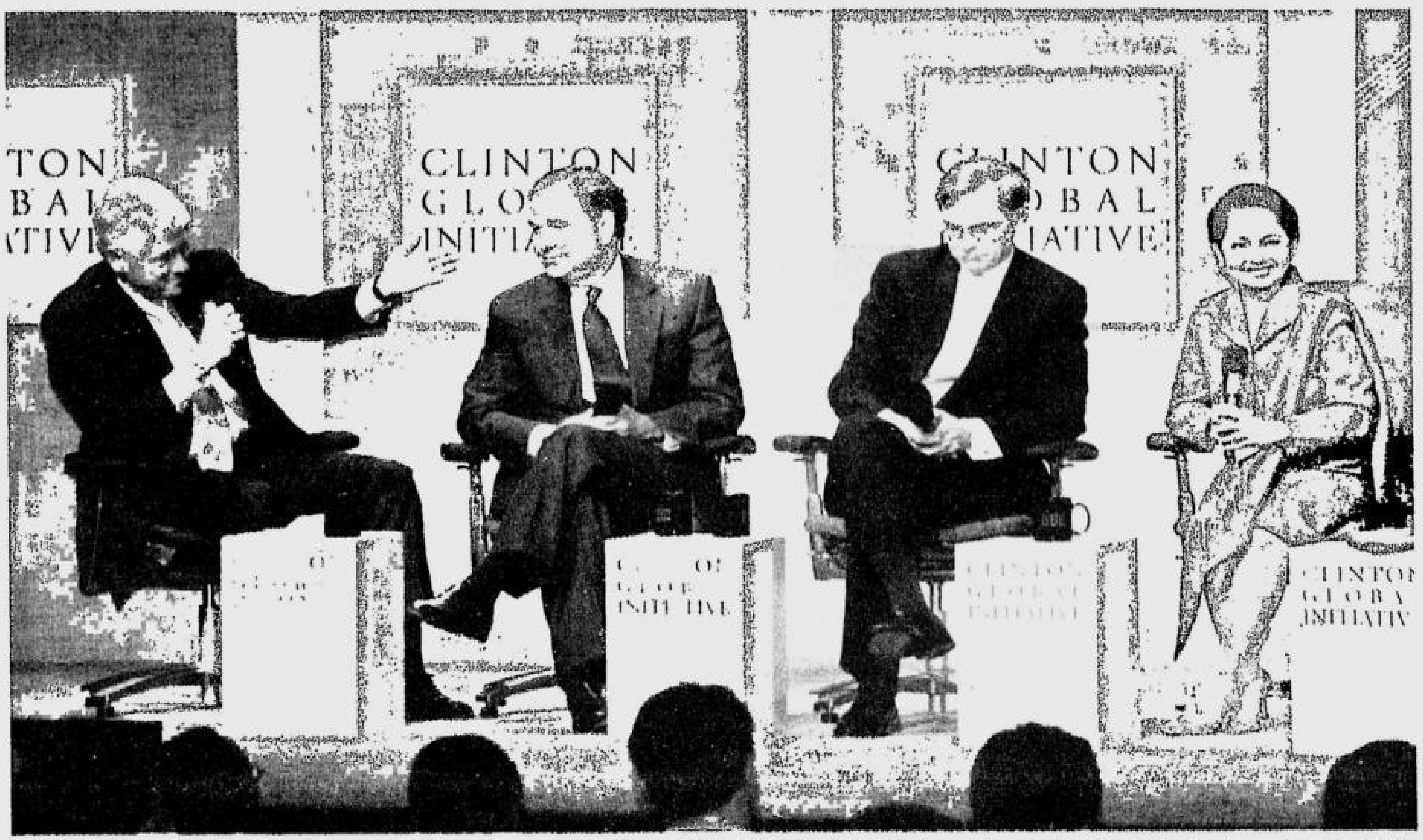
Roxas calls deal 'overpriced intercom facility'

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

SEN. MANUEL ROXAS III DOUBTS THE government's claim that the National Broadband Network (NBN) project would bring it substantial savings in telecommunication bills, saying the NBN was just an "overpriced intercom facility."

"Basically what we are trying to save with this system is just the intercom, or government's communication with other government agencies but not its communication with nongovernment agencies using private services," Roxas said at the third Senate hearing on the $329-million contract for the NBN project awarded to Chi-

ROXAS/ A8



ALL THE WORLD'S A STAGE for a beaming President Arroyo at the Clinton Global Initiative (CGI). Ms Arroyo has plenty to be giddy about as ex-President Bill Clinton introduces her with lavish praise as a head of state and a classmate at Georgetown University during the CGI opening plenary at the Sheraton New York Hotel. H. Lee Scott, president/CEO of Wal-Mart, and World Bank president Robert Zoelick are in the middle. MALACAÑANG PHOTO

FROM BROADBAND TO BROADWAY

Clinton: Everybody is afraid of Gloria

By Christine O. Avendaño

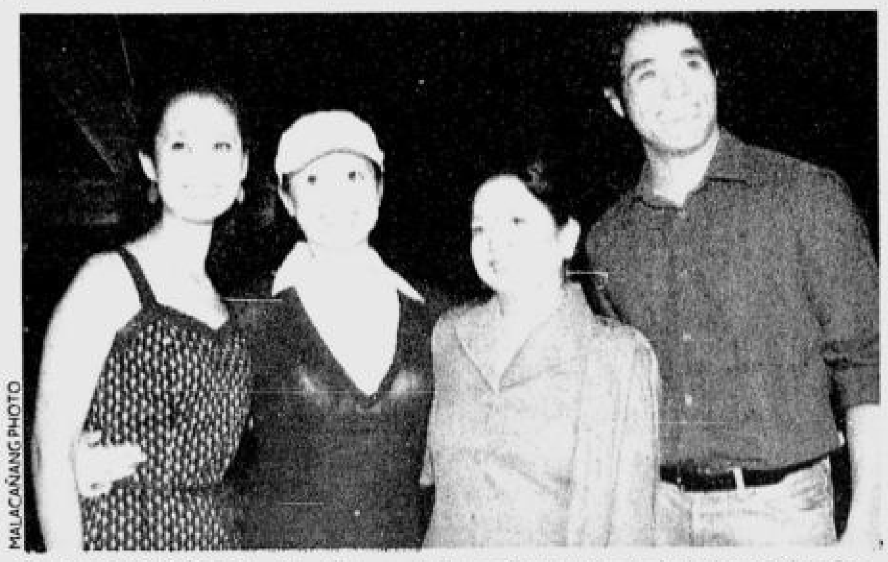
NEW YORK (VIA PLDT)—FORMER US President Bill Clinton on Wednesday applauded President Macapagal-Arroyo's efforts at turning around her country's economy and said that in the Philippines "everybody is afraid of Gloria."

Battered at home by controversies, Ms Arroyo got a much-needed pat on the back at the Clinton Global Initiative (CGI), a high-profile forum set up in 2005 for global and business leaders to tackle the world's major challenges.

A giddy Ms Arroyo could not help but bask in Clinton's compliment, recounting it in a meeting with the Filipino community hours after the CGI forum.

"Congratulations. The Philippines is having an economic renaissance," Ms Arroyo

CLINTON/ A12


MALACAÑANG PHOTO

SLEEPLESS IN NY: President Arroyo's flurry of must-dos included watching the Philippines' pride, Lea Salonga, in "Les Miserables" on Broadway. They are flanked by Fil-Ams Adam Jacobs and Ali Ewolt who also play lead roles.

GMA takes break; is entranced by Lea in 'Les Miz'

By Christine O. Avendano

NEW YORK (VIA PLDT)—For more than three hours on Wednesday, President Macapagal-Arroyo put behind her broadband woes and other worldly problems and went to Broadway to enjoy Lea Salonga's performance in "Les Miserables."

Here for the 62nd session of the UN General Assembly, where she will speak on Fri-

GMA TAKES/ A12

Only treason not basis for impeach rap vs Abalos

By Norman Bordadora and Christian V. Esguerra

"ONLY TREASON WAS LEFT OUT OF all the possible grounds for impeachment under the Constitution. It's only because the country is not at war," Iloilo Vice Gov. Rolex Suplico said as he filed his impeachment complaint against Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos yesterday.

Feeling the heat, Abalos yesterday asked Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. to stay out of the impeachment complaint filed against him for allegedly brokering the $329-million contract for the National Broadband Network (NBN) project.

"I hope he won't interfere," Abalos told reporters after appearing at a hearing in the House of Representatives on the proposed Comelec budget for next year.

The Speaker is the father of Abalos' main accuser, Jose "Joey" de Venecia III, who has claimed that the Comelec chair offered him $10 million to withdraw his company's unsolicited proposal to undertake the NBN project.

The Comelec chair pointed out yesterday that the Speaker had "loyalists"

ONLY TREASON/ A10

MILITARY MIGHT stops monks in their tracks in Burma's largest city, Rangoon. The Buddhist priesthood, Burma's highest moral authority, is going head-to-head with the ruling junta. REUTERS

Burma junta intensifies crackdown; monks defiant

RANGOON—SECURITY FORCES swept through Rangoon (Yangon) on Thursday, arresting hundreds of people and warning of "extreme" action in an intensified crackdown on protesters that drew international appeals to the military junta of Burma (Myanmar) to exercise restraint.

About 10,000 antigovernment protesters faced off against troops around the Buddhist Sule pagoda to demonstrate their anger over early morning raids on Buddhist monasteries in which monks were beaten and arrested.

After firing warning shots, the troops issued an ultimatum threatening "extreme action" unless the protesters dispersed. Thousands scattered in panic as security forces moved in and arrested at least 100 protesters.

There were reports of tens of thousands more protesters in other parts of Burma's biggest

BURMA/ A17

Man in eye of storm calm morning after

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE MAN IN THE EYE OF THE storm was unexpectedly calm after a day of intense grilling at the Senate.

Walking into Rooms 1 and 2 of the Mitra building, where his agency's proposed budget for 2008 was to be scrutinized by the House, Commission on Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. appeared none the worse for wear.

"You look relaxed," noted Rep. Edcel Lagman, chair of the House committee on appropriations.

Later, the 72-year-old Abalos told reporters: "I know I have not committed any wrong. That's why I feel relaxed."

Yesterday's budget hearing, which took nearly four hours, was the concluding session before the proposed P1.227-trillion national budget is tackled in plenary next week.

Abalos appeared before Lagman's

MAN IN EYE/ A10

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Central and Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

Metro Manila	Mostly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Mostly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Mostly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Mostly Cloudy
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Mostly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Mostly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Mostly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Mostly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Mostly Cloudy
Legazpi	Mostly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Mostly Cloudy
Calapan	Mostly Cloudy	Davao	Mostly Cloudy

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Senate rejection of Jpepa seen

Miriam says she may surrender on RP-Japan trade treaty

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

AFTER THREE HEARINGS, THE PROposed trade treaty between the Philippines and Japan is on the verge of defeat in the Senate after government officials again failed to convince the senators of the treaty's benefits to the country.

Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago, chair of the foreign relations committee, said yesterday she was considering not submitting a committee report on the Japan-Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement (Jpepa) to the Senate plenary.

She said if she had to submit a report, it would only recommend that the Senate not ratify the Jpepa.

At yesterday's hearing, groups opposed to the treaty even managed to impress Ambassador to Japan Domingo Siazon.

Siazon commended Junk Jpepa lawyer Golda Benjamin for her "excellent, thorough, articulate and well-researched" arguments that the treaty would promote the entry into the Philippines of toxic and other hazardous waste from Japan.

Under Jpepa, the tariff rates for hazardous waste would be reduced to zero.

Siazon, who flew back to Tokyo after the hearing, said the Philippines needed the support of a "technologically advanced" country like Japan to deal with its own hazardous waste.

Health Undersecretary Alexander Padilla, meanwhile, stunned the senators when he disproved the Department of Environment and Natural Resources' claim that Japan would not export hazardous waste to the Philippines.

Padilla said the Department of Health had "concerns" that the treaty would allow for reciprocity, meaning that both the Philippines and Japan could export hazardous waste to each other.

"While we agree with the noble objectives of the Jpepa, we feel we do live in an imperfect world," he said.

Santiago told reporters during a break in the hearing: "If this were a boxing match, I already gave the first two rounds to those against the Jpepa. Today, I still give round three to those opposed to the Jpepa."

Enrile berates finance execs

By Gil Cabacungan Jr.

SEN. JUAN PONCE ENRILE YESterday berated the Department of Finance for illegally manipulating and tinkering with the excise tax on cigarettes which could further undermine the government's lower-than-expected collection from "sin taxes."

Enrile said the department violated the law when it reduced the excise tax on the cigarette brand Pall Mall of the British American Tobacco (Philippines) Ltd. by reclassifying from a high priced brand with a tax rate of P25 per pack to a mid-size brand with a tax rate of P6.74 per pack.

This, Enrile said, would reduce the tax collections by roughly P100 million a year.

"You have a problem," Enrile told finance officials at the budget hearing yesterday. Enrile said the DOF "tinkered with a policy that we adopted."

He said the department officials issued a ruling in the cigarette area where they made a downward classification, which is prohibited by law. This is going affect revenue collection "because that same formula affects other sin products, the spirits," said Enrile.

Enrile questioned the DOF for lowering the tax on Pall Mall based solely on a survey when the Bureau of Internal Revenue had already classified Pall Mall as a premium brand subject to premium taxes.

'Hannah' moves into RP

By TJ Burgonio

A TROPICAL DEPRESSION HAS swirled into the country's "area of responsibility" and is expected to induce the southwest monsoon that will bring rain over the country, according to weather forecasters.

Depression "Hannah," estimated to be at 150 km east of Catanduanes at 4 p.m. yesterday, was still too far to have an affect on any part of the country, the Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration said.

"If it will hit land, it's going to batter northern Luzon. But it's too early to say. It will take three days before it hits land," Pagasa weather branch chief Nathaniel Cruz said in a phone interview.

"Whatever thunderstorm or rainshower we are experiencing right now, that's not a direct effect of the tropical depression," he added.

WHAT'S INSIDE

ERAP SEEKS COURT
OK to visit ailing mother
/A6

HK POP STAR FIRED
21 RP maids in 3 years, is blacklisted
/A6

GORDON VERSUS CARAGUE: All's well...

ROGER MARGALLO

Senate sit-com spills over to budget hearing

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE TENSION IN THE SENATE INVESTIGATIONS of the National Broadband Network (NBN) project and the "Hello Garci" scandal appears to have spilled over into other hearings.

Sen. Richard Gordon and Commission on Audit chair Guillermo Carague got into a heated argument during a budget hearing that resulted in Carague nearly walking out and Gordon calling security to detain him for contempt.

The verbal tussle started when Gordon and Carague began debating fiercely on whether or not the COA could initiate corruption complaints in the course of its work.

"Our role is merely to report. We are not the Ombudsman. We now have 10,000 people and we will need 100,000 if we are to initiate cases because our reports are replete with anomalies in many government agencies," Carague said, to which Gordon replied that the COA could initiate complaints.

The debate continued after Carague pointed out that the best way to run the government was to have not only honest but competent people running it.

Carague cited Singapore as one country that was doing well because it paid good people to run its government.

Gordon countered that Singapore was doing well because it enforced its laws, not because its people were better than Filipinos.

At this point, both Gordon and Carague resented being lectured by the other.

When Gordon told Carague he was "out of line," Carague excused himself and made a move for the door.

"No, no, no, you cannot go right now. Can you call the sergeant at arms and place this gentleman in contempt? I don't know why you're hot-headed," Gordon barked to Carague.

Carague called Gordon "dictatorial," "uncouth" and "the problem" and he complained loudly that the senator was putting him down.

After berating Carague for mispronouncing "uncouth," Gordon chided him for being "sensitive" and repeated his order to the guards to place him in contempt.

"I am the problem? I don't why you feel so abused. I wasn't even abusing you. I'm trying to get your comments. I even called you Gem [Carague's nickname]. I did not even call you Mr. Carague. This is a senator of the Republic of the Philippines. I was elected, you were appointed," Gordon said, adding that he had previously placed Presidential Commission on Good Government Chair Camilo Sabio in contempt.

"Mr. Carague took offense at statements made which were made in good faith. They weren't even critical of COA. All of a sudden, he was very high-handed calling the Senate names, calling me names. I'm sorry you feel that way. I'm really shocked," said Gordon, who demanded an apology from Carague.

A few minutes after retaking his seat, and with Gordon proceeding with the hearing as if nothing happened, Carague stood up and walked to where Gordon was sitting to make peace.

"I would like to apologize for any adverse comment I may have made. I'd like to put it on record that I have high respect and admiration for Senator Gordon," Carague said.

Later, in an interview with reporters, he blamed his outburst on problems that had been bothering him.

Gordon, in a separate interview, said he accepted Carague's apology, attributing his outburst to "high blood pressure."

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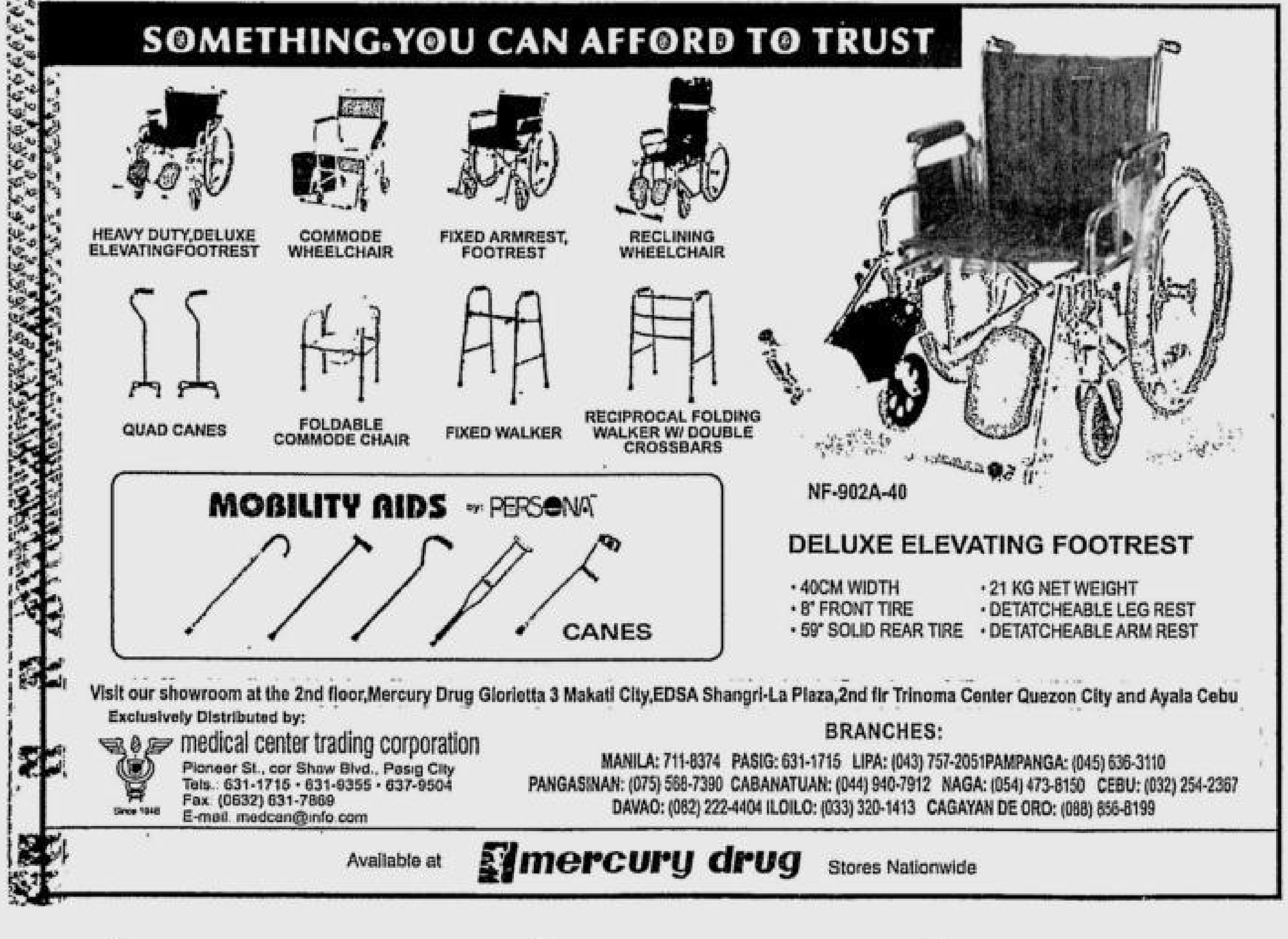
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Army, MILF trade barbs

LEADERS OF THE ARMY AND THE COUNtry's largest Muslim separatist group accused each other yesterday of breaking a four-year ceasefire, as a flare-up of fighting in troubled Mindanao threatened to scuttle planned peace talks.

The military accused members of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), which signed a truce in 2003, of helping a band of Abu Sayyaf rebels during a firefight on Basilan island on Tuesday.

But MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu said government troops had entered rebel territory without coordinating with a ceasefire panel and attacked an MILF camp in the Tipo-tipo area. A fierce three-hour battle ensued.

"Our troops were only defending their positions," Kabalu told reporters. "There were no Abu Sayyaf members in the area as the military has been claiming. We already filed a protest before the ceasefire panel."

The tension between the Army and the MILF is raising doubts whether informal peace talks next month in the Malaysian capital of Kuala Lumpur will resume as scheduled.

Tuesday's firefight broke a lull of almost a month on Basilan island, where the Army is pursuing around 50 members of the Abu Sayyaf, a small Islamic militant group with ties to al-Qaida-linked Jemaah Islamiah.

Two soldiers were killed and 10 wounded on Tuesday when troops attacked a camp of Abu Sayyaf militants, who also suffered an undetermined number of casualties. *Reuters, AFP*

Jonas ma asks court to dismiss military petition

EDITA BURGOS

THE MOTHER OF MISSING activist Jonas Burgos has asked the Court of Appeals to dismiss a petition from the military that the appellate court reconsider its resolution directing the military to release the Provost Marshal General report concerning a set of missing car plates in the military's custody that figured in the Burgos abduction.

In her petition, Edita Burgos denounced the Armed Forces for "flip-flopping" on the issue of whether or not to release the report, pointing out that Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr. has already signified his intention to make the document public.

"To argue now that the report cannot be released, despite what the Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines himself has said, is, at the very least, confusing," Edita said.

The AFP, through the Office of the Solicitor General, has appealed the appellate court's resolution denying the military's motion to quash the subpoena for the report of Provost Marshal General Col. Arthur Abadilla.

Motion to quash

In denying the motion to quash, the appellate court said the life and liberty of Jonas took precedence and that the military had failed to show what injury it would suffer, save perhaps for the embarrassment of the people involved in the investigation, if the report was released.

Edita disputed the OSG's argument that the subpoena for the report invalidated the Memorandum Circular 78 that the latter had cited as basis for not releasing the confidential document.

She pointed out that the memorandum circular does not absolutely prohibit the disclosure of classified information.

Not absolute

Edita also contested the OSG's argument that the right to information was not absolute, saying that there is no blanket prohibition on the disclosure of classified information.

"The prohibition refers to public officials and employees using information for their own interest or prejudicial to public interest," she said.

The continued insistence that Abadilla does not have custody of the report was also another baffling claim, she said, as it was Abadilla himself who conducted the investigation and produced the report, and that Esperon would not have had a copy of it were it not for Abadilla. *Leila B. Salaverria*

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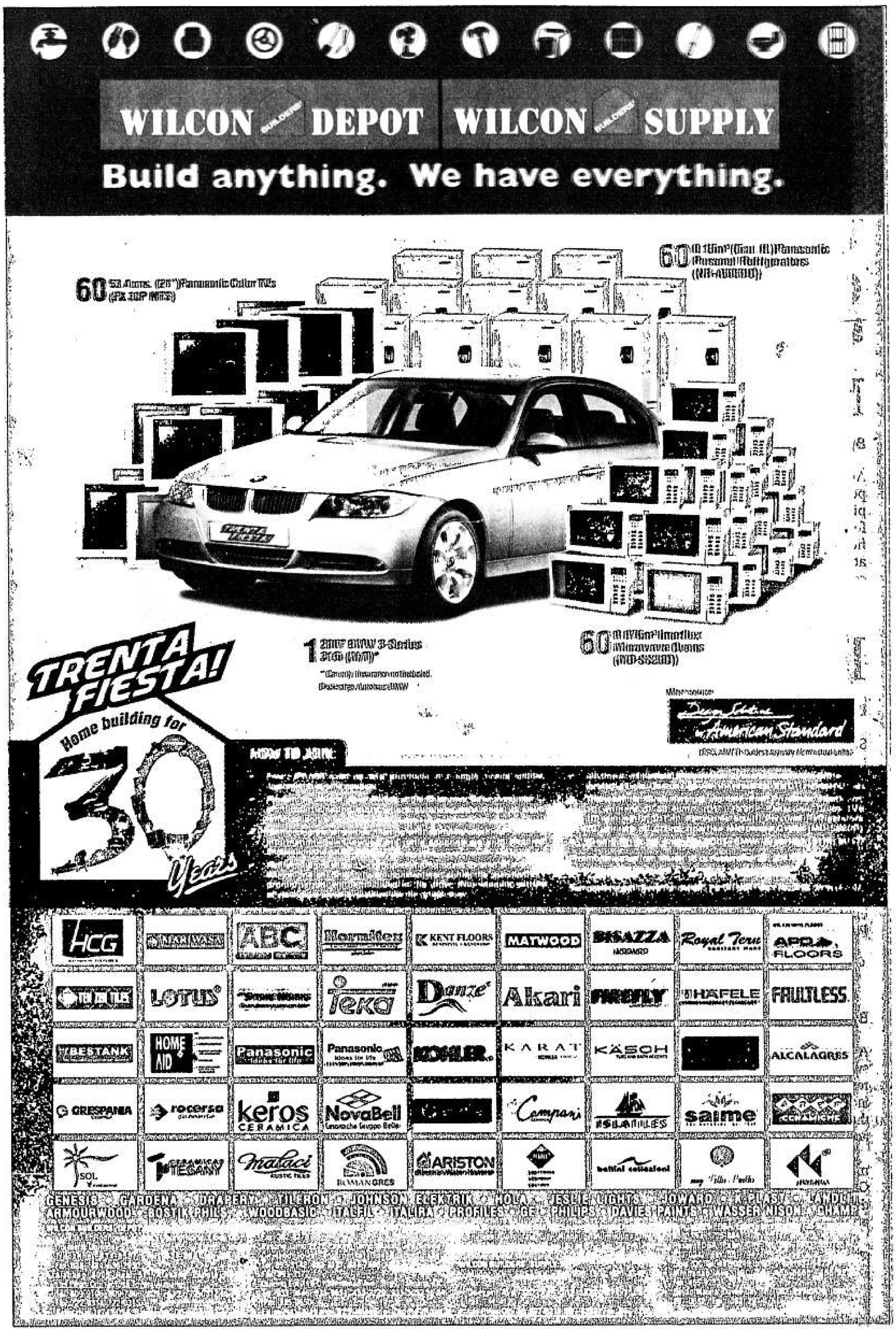

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Military bars Senate hearing at Fort Boni

MILITARY AUTHORITIES YESTERDAY stopped detained Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV from conducting a committee hearing inside the Fort Bonifacio Army and Marine headquarters.

The former Navy junior officer, who is detained on coup d'etat charges, had called a second hearing of the Senate committee on civil service and government reorganization, which he chairs, at 10 a.m. yesterday to tackle two bills proposing amendments to the Custom Broker Act of 2004.

But officers at the Marines barracks turned away Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, Civil Service Commission Chair Karina David and resource persons from the Bureau of Customs and the Department of Finance as well as Senate staff.

Aside from committee hearings, the military has also banned future visits from government officials.

Trillanes' chief of staff Reynaldo Robles, who claimed that the order came from Armed Forces Chief Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr., denounced what happened as "a pure act of political harassment."

"We consider this an interference in the performance of the duties of a senator. Esperon cannot accept that Trillanes was elected by the people," he said in a mixture of English and Filipino.

As a senator, Trillanes can hold his committee hearings "anywhere in the country," according to Robles.

He insisted Trillanes did not need to get a court order nor permission from the military to hold hearings in the Marine brig.

Trillanes was able to hold a first committee hearing, an organizational meeting, last Sept. 20 without any interference.

But that meeting was not announced to the media by Trillanes' staff, unlike yesterday's aborted hearing.

"We were surprised at the sudden change because over the last few months he's been allowed to receive staff and public officials," said Robles.

Ambassador Domingo Siazon, the country's envoy to Japan, recently visited Trillanes to brief him on the Japan-Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement (Jpepa).

Robles said they would ask the Senate to "take action" against the military.

He said the Trillanes camp is also considering the filing of criminal charges against the officers at the Marine barracks, including Esperon, for allegedly interfering in Trillanes' Senate duties.

Trillanes is on trial before a civilian and military court for involvement in the failed July 2003 coup, in which he and about 300 heavily armed junior officers and soldiers occupied the former Oakwood Premier Hotel at the Makati financial center for more than 24 hours.

Despite being in jail, Trillanes was elected senator last May. But the Makati court trying him on coup d'etat charges has denied him permission to be let out of jail to attend Senate sessions. *Dona Pazzibugan*

Fat ain't cute, docs warn Pinoy parents

By Jeannette I. Andrade

NINETY PERCENT OF FILIPINOS ARE AT risk of suffering heart ailments because of unhealthy lifestyles, with Filipino children facing a bigger risk because adults misconstrue obesity as "cute."

The Philippine Heart Association (PHA) said that far from being cute, fat children are in danger of developing heart disease, hypertension and other cardiovascular complications, as well as cancer, stroke, diabetes, severe pancreatitis, pulmonary diseases, nonalcoholic fatty liver disease, gall bladder disease, osteoarthritis, gout and gynecological abnormalities.

Obesity is the No. 1 health problem in the world, with more than 1.1 billion people overweight and 300 million of them obese, according to Dr. Rosa Allyn Sy, program director of the Cardinal Santos Medical Center Diabetes Care Clinic and chair of the Philippine Diabetes Association council on childhood.

Increasing trend toward obesity

Speaking before the PHA "Puso sa Puso" media forum last Wednesday, Sy said there is an increasing trend toward obesity among children six months to 10 years old.

Figures show that from 1963 to 2000, trends in childhood obesity have escalated showing that Filipino children are growing fatter through the years.

Sy attributed this to technology as Filipino kids tend to watch more television, play more video games and spend longer periods in front of personal computers instead of engaging in physical activity.

"Studies have shown that high technology increases body weight. Cellular phones and remote controls deprive us of the pleasure of walking," Sy said.

She cited a 2003 study showing that 60.1 percent of Filipino adults are "sedentary" or not physically active.

She also stressed that changes in eating behavior contribute to childhood obesity where "there is an increase in the intake of fatty food, emphasis on fast food and readily available soda pop in school."

Philippine Heart Center and St. Luke's Medical Center pedia-cardio consultant Aurora Gamponia told the forum that based on a cardiovascular risk analysis study in 1999, 15 million Filipino children are under threat with 25 percent of them obese.

An earlier 1998 study revealed that among children aged between 1 to 5 years, 9 of every 1,000 are overweight while among children 6 to 10 years of age, 2 of every 1,000 are overweight.

She said the trends show that the figures continue to grow nine years after the study.

Gamponia said children who are at high risk of suffering cardiovascular diseases are those who are born to parents who are themselves at high risk of suffering heart ailments, those with one parent who has suffered a stroke before reaching the age of 55, and those in whose family hypertension is prevalent among members younger than 55 years old.

She recommended diet modification, more physical activity, less time devoted to television or video games, and for the children's parents to quit smoking.

Change the mindset

"We must change the mindset that they are still just kids so they can eat or do anything they like. We have to change that particular concept and encourage them to start being healthy while they are still kids," Gamponia said.

Cristina Dablo of the Department of Health (DOH) attributed the growing number of people at high risk of suffering cardiovascular disease to rapid cultural changes in the society.

She said a 2000 study revealed that six of 10 leading causes of mortality were "lifestyle-related," with hypertension identified among the leading causes of morbidity and "the No. 1 killer in society today."

"Ninety percent of Filipinos have one or more of these risk factors," she said.

The Wednesday forum was organized by the PHA, a non-stock and non-profit organization established to serve as the center of cardiology research, training and education in the country, for the celebration on Sept. 30 of World Heart Day.

Latin heritage explains why RP is poor, says US study

THE PHILIPPINES' POOR ECONOMIC performance may be due to a Latin cultural heritage that gave rise to powerful political families pursuing their own rather than the state's interests, according to a new study.

Some 330 years of Spanish rule influenced the Philippines greatly, an impact that survived nearly 50 years of later colonial occupation by the United States, the study by Robert Nelson of the University of Maryland said.

This Spanish Catholic influence, in contrast to the US Protestant model, led to a "dominant political role" by large landholding families in the Philippines just like in Latin America, Nelson said.

A weak government and powerful political oligarchies combined to put the state in the service of private interests, he added.

"If culture is now to be considered an important economic influence, it may be that this common Spanish Catholic heritage is a main contributing factor in the economic histories of the Philippines and most of Latin America," the study said.

These cultural attitudes "now stand in the way of freer markets and a more successful political democracy," said Nelson, who undertook the study as a visiting fellow at the University of the Philippines School of Economics.

In the 1950s, according to a World Bank study at the time, the Philippines was destined to become the region's second Japan.

But it missed out almost completely on the foreign investment-fueled Asian boom of the 1970s to the 1990s.

By 2000, Philippine per capita income exceeded only Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, North Korea and Burma.

Particular problems like large fiscal deficits, inflation or corruption might be cited as reasons why the Philippines has failed to attract high levels of foreign investment, Nelson said.

But that failed to explain the policy failures behind those problems in the first place, he argued. *AFP*

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HK pop star fired 21 Pinay maids in 3 years, is blacklisted

HONG KONG—HONG KONG Canto-pop star Jacky Cheung has been banned from hiring any more maids from the Philippines after firing 21 in three years, a newspaper said on Thursday.

Cheung and his wife, former actress May Lo, were placed on a "blacklist of sub-standard employers" maintained by the Philippine consulate in Hong Kong after hiring and firing 21 maids in three years, the South China Morning Post reported.

His track record has earned him the nickname of the "the terminator" within the local Filipino community.

Joel Blas, an assistant national officer at the Philippines consulate, was quoted as saying his consul-general had met Lo last week to explain she'd "not be allowed to hire any helpers from the Philippines for one year."

Considered one of the four "Cantopop Heavenly Kings," Cheung has built up a huge pan-Asian fan base in a career spanning more than 20 years.

The blacklisting comes after a former Filipino helper working under Cheung, Preslyn-saga Catacutan, was controversially jailed last year for stealing photographs and a letter from the star. *Reuters*

Erap seeks court OK to visit ailing mother

By Jocelyn R. Uy

WHILE POSTPONING ACTION ON a proffered presidential pardon that would allow him to be with his ailing mother all the time, convicted plunderer former President Joseph Estrada has sought the permission of the Sandiganbayan anew to visit her this weekend.

In a three-page motion, Estrada's lawyer, Rene Saguisag, informed the antigraft court's Special Division that Mary Ejercito's condition had worsened due to an infection she recently acquired.

The Estrada family doctor, Lorenzo Hocson, wrote to the ousted president on Tuesday to inform him he had started administering antibiotics to his 102-year-old mother for the infection, as well as other drugs to stabilize her erratic blood pressure.

Estrada had indicated earlier that he would accept an absolute pardon from President Macapagal-Arroyo that would entail no admission of guilt on his part if it was the only way he could be with his mother.

"I just need to be with her in the last few months. You know how close I am to her," Estrada had told the INQUIRER in an earlier interview.

On Tuesday, however, Estrada chose not to accept for the meantime the unconditional pardon offered by Malacañang through Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno.

Instead, his lawyers filed a motion for reconsideration of the guilty verdict handed down against him by the Sandiganbayan.

In the motion seeking a pass, Saguisag asked the court to allow Estrada to visit his mother either on Saturday or Sunday, or at the soonest possible time.

The prosecution did not object to the motion.

"We made a promise before that when it came to his mother we would not object," Special Prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio told the INQUIRER.

He said, however, that Estrada's security detail should be doubled since he had been convicted by the antigraft court.

Estrada, meanwhile, appealed to the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines to support his quest to overturn the guilty verdict against him by withholding "summary judgment" on his case.

ESTRADA

In a statement, Estrada told the bishops: "I will continue with my plans for the reconsideration... and I hope that the CBCP can support me in this since this is part of the judicial process."

He said that if there was one person who should return illegally amassed wealth, it was former Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson, his erstwhile friend who blew the whistle on him.

Estrada claimed the paper trail of the P540-million "jueteng" payoffs and the P130-million in tobacco excise taxes he was accused of taking led "incontrovertibly" to Singson.

Wives lead moral support for officers in court-martial

By Nikko Dizon

FAMILIES AND FRIENDS OF THE Marine and Scout Ranger officers and men facing mutiny charges will attend today's court martial hearing at Camp Capinpin in Tanay, Rizal wearing shirts declaring their support for the accused mutineers.

Conceived by the officers' wives, the shirts call on the country's "few good men… to rise up and be counted."

The shirts bear the images of the 28 officers, led by former Marine commandant, Maj. Gen. Renato Miranda and ex-Scout Ranger chief Brig. Gen. Danny Lim and the names of the 40 enlisted men jailed along with the officers after being accused by the Armed Forces of mounting a military coup in February last year.

At the bottom of the images is emblazoned their 'battlecry': "The truth shall set us free."

Written at the back of the shirt is a message entitled "A Few Good Men," describing the kind of men this "dying nation" needs.

The message says the country needs "men of will who dare to go against tyrants and oppressors."

Families and friends will also sell the shirts in order to raise funds for the families of the 40 enlisted personnel—jailed along with their husbands—whose salaries would no longer be paid once they are arraigned.

"It's in anticipation of that eventuality. Rather than beg, we will help the wives of the soldiers to be self-supporting," said Maria Flor Querubin, wife of Marine Col. Ariel Querubin, who is also detained in Tanay.

The officers' wives worked double time on the shirts, putting finishing touches on the design and the text, even testing the silkscreen to be used to print the message, so that they could launch their little project today.

The officers' wives have complained that security measures at the camp had been "unreasonably" tightened recently.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Friday, September 28, 2007
25th Week in Ordinary Time
Lorenzo Ruiz de Manila and Companions / Wenceslaus

1st Reading:	Hg 2:1-9
Gospel:	Luke 9:18-22

One day when Jesus was praying alone, not far from his disciples, he asked them, "What do people say about me?" And they answered, "Some say that you are John the Baptist; others say that you are Elijah, and still others that you are one of the former prophets risen from the dead." Again Jesus asked them, "Who then do you say I am?" Peter answered, "The Messiah of God." Then Jesus spoke to them, giving them strict orders not to tell this to anyone.

And he added, "The Son of Man must suffer many things. He will be rejected by the elders and chief priests and teachers of the Law, and put to death. Then after three days he will be raised to life."

Commentary

The people barely remember what the house of the Lord/temple looked like because their exile had been so long. But they are to take heart and have courage for God will be with them in their work. God remains with them as their God, and they are his people still. The day will come when God will dwell with them once again and the future glory of the Lord will be greater than the former—and his dwelling place will know the gift of peace.

This dwelling place where the glory of God is greater than any former dwelling place is the body/the person of Jesus. He is thought to be a prophet like of old, or like John the Baptist. And Peter calls him the Messiah of God—the hope of those who have gone before them waiting on the promise of God. But Jesus tells them that he is the Son of Man, the judge of the nations, the glory of God hidden/revealed in the Crucified one. And he is peace—God's peace upon the world. Do we know our God in Jesus like this?

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Voters told: Don't take barangay polls lightly

By Beverly T. Natividad

VOTERS SHOULD NOT TAKE the barangay elections lightly and should give them the same attention they give to the national elections, according to a voters' organization.

Ang Kapatiran Party (AKP) yesterday called on all Filipinos to actively participate in the Oct. 29 barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) elections to prevent this basic political unit from being invaded and controlled by traditional politicians.

"We have to remove first the control of traditional politicians over barangays before we can start reversing the vicious cycle of graft and corruption to eventually solve the problem of poverty in our country," said the AKP.

Good governance

According to AKP president Renato H. Peronilla, good governance in fact starts at the barangay level.

But he said most voters nowadays do not have enough knowledge of how the barangay government works for them, and so have little or no participation in the election of barangay officials.

"The barangay is the smallest political unit and our impression of it is mostly that they are the barangay *tanod* [watchmen] in our areas. We don't know what to expect, what to demand of it," said Peronilla.

He warned that a majority of barangays have fallen under the control of traditional politicians who are out to promote their own personal interests.

The Article VI Section 38 of the Omnibus Election Code, he said, provides that no political party, organization or group should intervene in the nomination and election of any barangay candidate.

While the law strives to keep barangay elections non-partisan, said Peronilla, the public's lack of knowledge and participation at this level makes the barangays easier to manipulate, particularly during national elections.

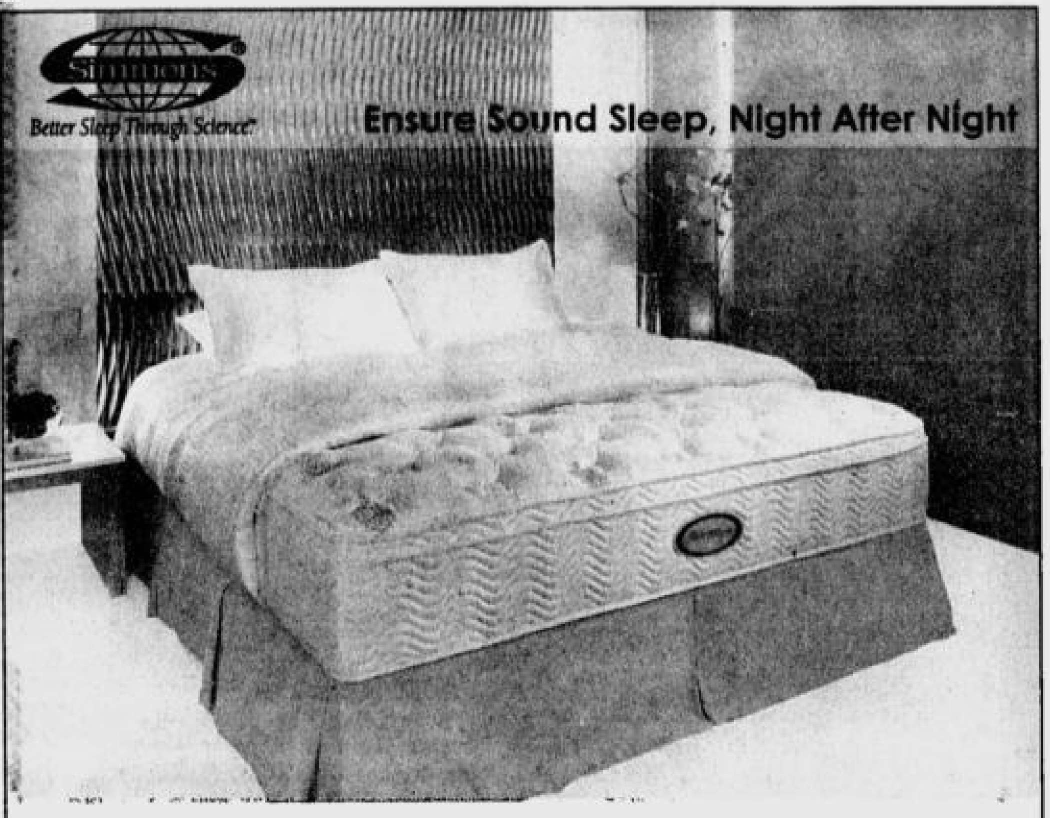
Sizable funding

Peronilla said that very few people know that barangays also receive sizable funding from the national government. In 2004, barangays received some P28 billion from the internal revenue allotment (IRA), he said.

On top of this, barangays also get 25 percent of real property taxes, 35 percent of natural wealth extraction (e.g. lahar, mining), and 50 percent of the community tax (cedula).

On Oct. 29, one barangay head and seven kagawad (councilmen) will be elected for each barangay, one chair and seven councilmen for each SK. There are 41,994 barangays in the country, each of them with an SK.

The barangay and SK elections were supposed to have been held in 2005 but were postponed for this year.



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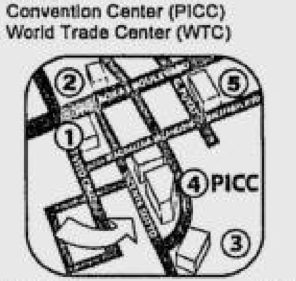

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INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The **National Food Authority, Region 6**, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites qualified grains handling services contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the provision of grains handling services in the different NFA utilized warehouses in Region VI for Calendar Year 2008.

LOT NO.	PROVINCE	ESTIMATED VOLUME TO BE HANDLED (In bag of 50 kg)	APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT (Php)	BIDDING FEE (PhP)
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2	Antique	200,000	756,000.00	1,200.00
3	Capiz	300,000	1,134,000.00	1,800.00
4	Iloilo & Guimaras	900,000	3,402,000.00	5,500.00
5	Negros Occidental	1,000,000	3,780,000.00	6,000.00

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last 3 years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding, and have key personnel and equipment (owned, leased or under purchase) available for the prosecution of the project. The eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

ACTIVITIES	SCHEDULE
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	Oct. 1– 12, 2007 – 8 am to 4 pm
2. Pre-bid Conference	October 15, 2007 – 9:30 AM
3. Submission & Opening of Eligibility & Bid Documents	October 29, 2007 – 9:30 AM

The National Food Authority, Region 6 assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

The **National Food Authority, Region 6** reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd.) VILMA H. ZARRAGA, MNSA
BAC Chairperson

(PDI – September 28, 2007)

CyberEd deal tainted, too, teachers claim

By Jerry E. Esplanada

LIKE THE $329-MILLION NATIONAL Broadband Network (NBN) deal, the $575 million (P26.4-billion) Cyber Education Project (CEP or CyberEd) of the Department of Education is mired in controversy, according to the Alliance of Concerned Teachers (ACT).

Antonio Tinio, chair of the 15,000-strong militant organization, said the CEP was another anomalous deal involving the administration.

Tinio said that even before the project was ordered suspended by President Macapagal-Arroyo, the DepEd had "already named (the private firm) Mabuhay Satellite Corporation as the provider of satellite services for the project even though the supply contract had yet to be awarded."

"Representatives of MSC [Mabuhay] were also frequent guests at the DepEd central office (in Pasig City)," Tinio said.

MSC, an affiliate of telecommunications giant Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., operates "Agila 2," the country's only satellite facility.

'Tied loan'

Education Secretary Jesli A. Lapus denied Tinio's allegations.

He said the DepEd was "absolutely in no position to commit to anything like supply and contract terms as China will be the one to decide on the subcontracts if and when a main supply contract and loan are finally executed with the Philippines."

That, Lapus said, was because the funding from China was a "tied loan."

Some DepEd employees took up the cudgels for Lapus, noting that the secretary was "not the point man during the negotiations with China" and "it was (Trade Secretary Peter) Favila who signed the CEP memorandum of agreement."

In its statement, ACT also challenged Lapus to "drop the CyberEd project and address the basic needs of the public school system instead."

"We advise Secretary Lapus to take his badly misplaced enthusiasm and zeal for the CEP and devote them instead to lobbying Congress for higher salaries for teachers, eliminating teacher, classroom and textbook shortages, abolishing fees in the public schools and giving subsidies to poor schoolchildren who are most at risk of dropping out, and so on," ACT said.

The CEP aims to link DepEd headquarters to its 204 field offices and more than 37,000 public schools nationwide.

Internet connectivity

It is a satellite-based distance learning program capable of broadcasting lessons from a central area to the farthest schools. Aside from interactive digital education, the project would have 12 video channels, wireless wide area and local networking, and Internet connectivity.

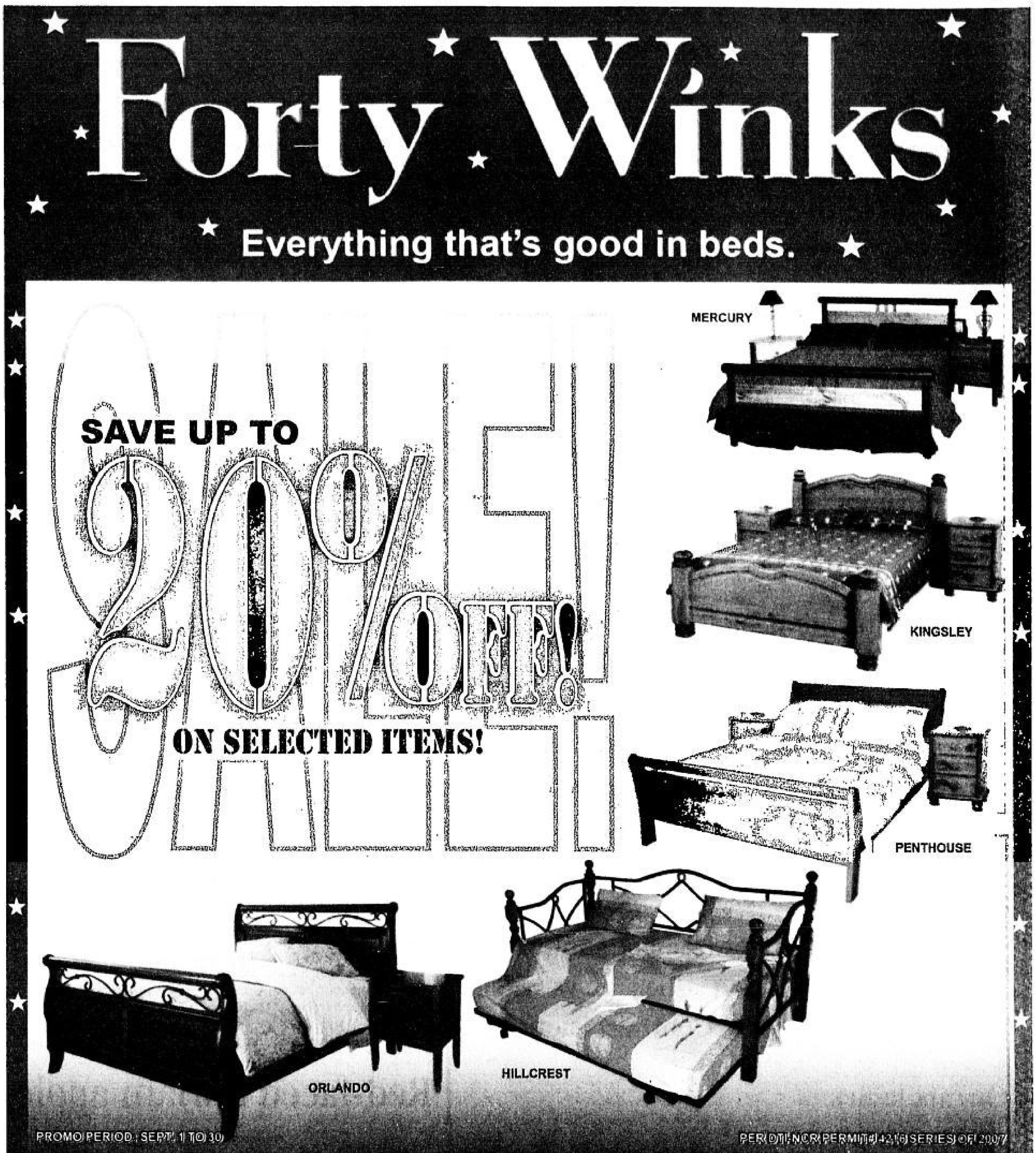
The DepEd had scheduled a demonstration of the CEP in three schools in November in anticipation of the project's roll-out in January 2008.

But with the suspension, Lapus said he expected a delay of at least six months.

Although disheartened by the suspension, Lapus said the DepEd would continue to train school teachers and administrators in the use of IT [information technology] to reach out to students in the remotest areas of the country.

He said the nation would eventually embrace CyberEd, as "we live in a world where information reigns … We should have done this a long time ago. We just have to wait out this negative environment."

As for the teachers' claim the department has neglected the "basic needs of education," Lapus said: "In fact, we have increased the DepEd budget to unprecedented levels—from P112 billion in 2006 and P137 billion this year to P146 billion in 2008. Also unmatched are the investment levels in school buildings, teacher items, furniture, textbooks, alternative education, a feeding program, teacher training and benefits, among other things," he said.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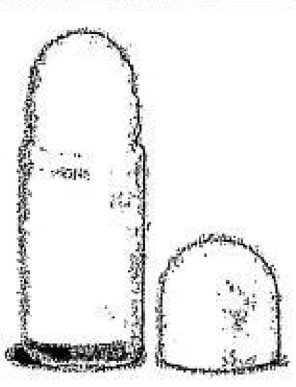
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ZTE asks high court to lift TRO

By Leila B. Salaverria

EVEN AS INTRIGUES CONTINUE TO hound the $329-million national broadband network deal it has with the Philippines, the Chinese firm ZTE Corp. has asked the Supreme Court to lift the temporary restraining order (TRO) it issued against the agreement's implementation.

In a motion filed Wednesday, ZTE said Iloilo Vice Governor Rolex Suplico failed to prove his allegation that the country would be at a disadvantage if the NBN deal pushed through, and to show the injury that he would endure if no TRO was handed down.

In fact, the Chinese firm said, it was the one which was suffering as a result of the restraining order because of the more than $2.9 million in expenses it has incurred for the agreement and the besmirching of its reputation through the media that has led to a drop in the value of its shares.

ZTE is listed on the Shenzhen and Hong Kong Stock exchanges.

Should the high court refuse to lift the TRO, ZTE said Suplico should be made to post a bond not lower than the $2,939,600 million it has spent to cover any damage it would incur.

China, meanwhile, said yesterday a decision by the Philippines to suspend the project would not affect bilateral trade ties.

"The Chinese government respects the Philippine side's decision and believes such a move will not affect bilateral trade relations," Commerce Ministry spokesperson Wang Xinpei said.

Suplico's petition was the basis of the TRO the high court issued against the NBN deal on Sept. 11.

The vice governor sought a TRO to nullify the deal because it was allegedly entered into through "rigged selection proceedings."

He also claimed that the deal violated the procurement law and the build-operate-transfer law that require public bidding, and the Telecoms Policy Act that requires the government to privatize telecommunications facilities.

Amsterdam Holdings, Inc., which lost its bid for the NBN deal, has also filed a petition to get documents related to the project and to temporarily stop its implementation. *With a report from AFP*

Roxas calls deal 'overpriced ...

From page A1

na's ZTE Corp.

The government is currently spending P250 million yearly for mobile phones, P1.1 billion for landline service, P158 million for cable subscription, P132 million for cable, satellite and radio fees, and P176 million for postage.

Communications Assistant Secetary Lorenzo Formoso III said the interconnection of all government offices through a single backbone could yield at least P1.8 billion in savings a year.

The amount would go up to P2.2 billion if communication expenses of government-owned and -controlled corporations were included, Formoso said.

But Roxas doubted this could be achieved considering that government agencies would still have to rely heavily on facilities provided by the private sector.

Discounts from private providers

Roxas asked why the Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC) did not first look at consolidating landline services by seeking discounts from private providers as a bulk user.

Landline subscription accounts form a big chunk of the government telecoms bill.

"Even if we negotiate a lower price, the existing landline subscription that we have will not be able to achieve the total connectivity that we want," Formoso said.

The NBN project seeks to interconnect national government agencies and local government units through a high-capacity telecommunication network.

Roxas said negotiating for discounts was more practical than throwing P15 billion into an overpriced system that was bound to lose money.

Apalled at findings

Skepticism over the Arroyo administration's decision to pursue the NBN project further heightened yesterday after economists from the University of the Philippines rebutted the National Economic and Development Authority's justification for the project.

"The crucial question to ask is, does the nation really need this? And we were appalled of course by what we found," said Raul V. Fabella, a former dean of the UP School of Economics (UPSE).

Fabella was sharing the findings of the paper on the NBN project titled "Lacking a backbone: The controversy over the National Broadband Network and Cyber-education projects," which he wrote with the current UPSE dean, Emmanuel de Dios.

Fabella criticized the Neda board then headed by Romulo Neri, who defended the NBN project despite its flaws. The original plan was to build the network through a build-operate-transfer scheme. The NBN is now envisioned to be put up with a loan from China.

Fabella said a government-owned and -operated broadband backbone would not make "economic sense" because there were existing and underutilized backbones.

He said the NBN deal would be a reversal of the government policy to wean itself away from the telecom business and from fiascoes such as the "Telepono sa Barangay" and the French protocol.

Fabella noted that the BOT scheme would give the government a zero-cost option in the NBN project.

"Government-owned and -operated broadband backbones do not make economic sense and/or are very likely to end up as very costly. The ZTE contract is precisely that," he said.

At the Senate hearing on Wednesday, Neri contended that he endorsed the NBN concept because he wanted to reduce the cost of cell phone and Internet services in the country since the big players lacked viable competition.

Does not make sense

But Fabella said that adding another player to the broadband business would lead to higher costs because a higher utilization rate of existing capacity would lead to lower costs.

"The more you use it, the less the cost, the lower the price. The idea of a public sector backbone reducing price does not make any sense because it will clearly take away (demand) from existing backbones. Market intervention makes sense only in market failure," Fabella said.

He also refuted Neri's justification for pursuing the NBN project because of the high profits of telecommunication providers and the high rate of return promised by the project.

Fabella said that even if a company earned P40 billion in profit, it was not doing its job if its investment reached P3 trillion.

"You're gonna be fired, right? The profitability of telcos is more interesting than the absolute numbers mentioned (on Wednesday)," he said.

Best-case scenario

Fabella said he was also "puzzled" why Neri would cite the 29.6 economic rate of return of the NBN (nearly twice the 15-percent hurdle rate of Neda) because most of the failed government projects had even rosier profit projections.

"If you are going to glue your attention on the best-case scenario, that means everything goes swimmingly well, then you can have a high rate of return.

"But it's never the best-case scenario that is going to rule the day. There are going to be snags," Fabella said. "We know that in the previous projects that were given a high grade by Neda, nothing happened."

Asked if they had any dealings with interested parties in the NBN deal such as a losing bidder or an American nongovernment organization, Fabella and De Dios said they were hired to do a separate study for PLDT (Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co.) for P1 million.

'Jukebox economists'

But Fabella brushed aside these insinuations as normal in their line of work, saying that they have been labeled "jukebox economists" and "running dogs of the World Bank and the IMF (International Monetary Fund)."

"If there is anybody who paid for this study it is the Filipino people. I am of the University of the Philippines. [The] Filipino people support the University of the Philippines," he said.

ERRATUM

In the publication of the Supreme Court **A.M. No. 07-9-12-SC, THE RULE ON THE WRIT OF AMPARO** which came out on **Sept. 26, 2007** in the **Philippine Daily Inquirer**, above the name of **Justice PRESBITERO J. VELASCO JR.** should have **ON LEAVE** instead of his signature.

The whole page advertisement **should not also have included** the news item regarding the Supreme Court decision.

Our apologies.

STATEMENT OF INDIGNATION

The Federation of Filipino Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Inc., the leading association of Chinese-Filipinos in the country, expresses its indignation over remarks made by Senator Miriam Defensor-Santiago during Wednesday's Senate investigation on the National Broadband Network.

We were taken aback by the irresponsible and insensitive statements by Sen. Santiago against the Chinese, especially in view of the following:

- **The ZTE-NBN deal is still under investigation. No civil or criminal charges have been filed and the alleged culpability of involved parties has yet to be established.**
- **Alleged irregularities in the "isolated" NBN-ZTE transaction cannot be the basis of the unwarranted and regrettable condemnation by Sen. Santiago that the Chinese people invented corruption.**
- **This unfortunate utterance is all the more deplorable since Sen. Santiago is not only a Senator of the Republic, but more so, is Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.**
- **While her outburst may have been made in the heat of emotion during the ZTE-NBN probe, the general and sweeping racial slur is directed against all Chinese and ethnic Chinese around the world.**
- **In the interest of fair play, we at the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry – in behalf of all fellow Chinese-Filipinos – demand an immediate and unqualified apology from Senator Santiago.**

FEDERATION OF FILIPINO-CHINESE CHAMBERS
OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY, INC.

Red-faced Miriam apologizes to China

From page A1

the allegedly overpriced National Broadband Network (NBN) project that the Philippine government signed with a Chinese company.

"I will write a formal letter of apology to the Chinese ambassador," Santiago, head of the Senate foreign relations committee and a close ally of President Macapagal-Arroyo, told reporters.

Santiago, famous for her mercurial temper, berated China in Wednesday's nationally televised hearing on the $329-million NBN project that was awarded to China's Zhong Xing Telecommunication Equipment (ZTE) Corp. amid allegations of bribery and overpricing.

Former Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri and businessman Jose "Joey" de Venecia III, whose company lost the NBN contract, testified that they were offered bribes by Commission on Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos to clear ZTE for the contract, which has since been suspended.

Abalos denied the allegations but admitted that ZTE officials were his "golfing buddies" and had paid for his trips to China.

"China invented civilization in the East, but as well it invented corruption for all of human civilization," Santiago said during the hearing.

She also admonished witnesses at the hearing for "just fighting over your kickbacks."

Embassy protest

The remarks raised a howl of protest from the Chinese Embassy and the Chinese-Filipino community in the country.

Sen. Manuel Roxas II called for sobriety amid the wave of China-bashing triggered by the scandal.

"Such kind of comments [are] neither fair nor correct," the Chinese Embassy said in a statement.

"We believe that the Philippine government and the people of the Philippines will not agree to that. It is known to all that anti-corruption is a common task faced by all the countries of the world. Corruption exists not only in China, nor was it created by China," the embassy said.

"The Chinese government has all along devoted itself to the building of an honest and clean government and combat against all forms of corruption," the statement said.

"In recent years, the Chinese government has adopted even tougher measures in combat against corruption and achieved prominent results. [We] think people of insight can all see it."

According to an embassy spokesperson, Santiago sent a letter yesterday "to apologize to the Chinese ambassador, the People's Republic of China and the Chinese people."

Reached by the INQUIRER on the phone last night, the embassy spokesperson said Ambassador Li Jinjun "expressed his appreciation and hopes to make a joint effort with Senator Santiago and also people from the various circles of Philippine society for the further enhancement of Chinese-Philippine friendship and mutual beneficial cooperation."

Apology demand

The Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry Inc. (FFCCCII) demanded an apology in behalf of ethnic Chinese, not just in the country but around the world.

"While her [Santiago's] outburst may have been made in the heat of emotion during the ZTE-NBN probe, the general and sweeping racial slur is directed against all Chinese and ethnic Chinese around the world," the FFCCCII said in a statement.

The federation has more than 50,000 members in 170 chapters around the country.

"I will never denigrate the Chinese because I am married to one," Santiago said. "My husband is a Yap, his mother was Chinese."

She said: "I've always been a great admirer of Chinese civilization. I made a trip to China when I was not a public official to see their historical monuments and imbibe their culture."

In explaining her outburst, Santiago said "we were talking about a Chinese contract. My point was if you are a public official and there's a pending government project with you, to socialize with any of the parties of the contract is very suspicious."

But Roxas urged the public to take a more objective look at the Chinese projects rather than see them all in a bad light like ZTE.

Bidding flaws

"The problem is not China. The problem is that Philippine officials, every time they enter into a deal with China, they use that as an excuse to bypass the regular procurement laws which require bidding. That's the problem, it's not our transactions with China," Roxas said.

The reason the government has been having trouble with its China projects is because the administration failed to follow the proper bidding procedures, Roxas said.

"All of the transactions with China that were problematic, the cause of the problem is, it didn't go through bidding. The money doesn't enter the country, and the lender, which is China Exim Bank, gets to choose the contractor. We will pay for that. So it seems to me that we ought to have a say on how the money is spent. It's as simple as that," he said.

"I am confident that [our] 33 years of cultural and historic ties with China are strong enough to withstand the ZTE controversy," the senator said. *With reports from Volt Contreras, AP and Inquirer.net*

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Only treason not basis for impeach rap vs Abalos

From page A1

in the House by virtue of his position.

"But I'm confident that it would ultimately be conscience that would prevail in each and every member of Congress," he said.

Abalos made the appeal while Suplico was filing the impeachment complaint in the office of the House secretary general shortly after noon.

Final ingredient

Suplico said the impeachment complaint at last had its final ingredient after Romulo Neri exploded his bombshell in the Senate on Wednesday.

"*Luto na* (It's done)," Suplico said.

"In all the meetings of government officials involving ZTE, he [Abalos] was there. From golf courses in China to hotels in Manila .... I believe we have an open-and-shut case against Chairman Abalos," Suplico said.

The impeachment complaint came a day after Neri told a Senate inquiry that Abalos had offered him a P200-million bribe in exchange for endorsing the proposal of China's ZTE Corp. to undertake the NBN project.

Neri, now chair of the Commission on Higher Education, was the director general of the National Economic and Development Authority (Neda) when the NBN project and the ZTE contract were approved. Neda evaluates proposed government projects.

Testifying at the same hearing on Wednesday, Abalos claimed that Neri was lying under oath.

Four grounds

Suplico cited four grounds—bribery, culpable violation of the Constitution, betrayal of public trust, and graft and corruption—in filing the complaint against Abalos.

"We have two sets of strong evidence against Chairman Abalos. One, the testimonial evidence of Jose de Venecia III and Secretary Neri. Two, the series of unfortunate events involving Chairman Abalos," Suplico told reporters.

Suplico, a former deputy minority leader, was accompanied to the office of the House secretary general by two endorsers from the House minority—Bayan Muna Rep. Teodoro Casiño and Bukidnon Rep. Teofisto Guingona II.

Zamboanga City Rep. Maria Isabelle Climaco, a member of the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino and the majority coalition in the House, was the first to endorse the complaint against Abalos.

"During the session (on Wednesday), we were affected by the events that happened in the Senate. We owe it to ourselves to cleanse the Comelec," Climaco told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview after she faxed her endorsement from Zamboanga City.

Numbers game

The chair and the commissioners of the Comelec, a constitutional body, cannot be fired by the President. They may be removed from office only through impeachment.

A vote of at least one-third (80 out of 239) of all the members of the House is required to affirm an impeachment complaint.

If that happens, the next step is a trial in the Senate, which shall act as the impeachment court.

Abalos acknowledged that the fate of the impeachment complaint rested on whether it could gather sufficient numbers.

House Majority Leader Arthur Defensor said the revelations of the younger De Venecia, coupled with the testimony of Neri, were "very serious" and might have provided enough grounds to impeach Abalos.

But he assured Abalos that the Speaker would remain neutral on the issue.

Close friend

In a previous interview with the INQUIRER, De Venecia said he "pitied" the Comelec chair considering that the scandal was triggered by the revelations of his own son.

The Speaker described Abalos as a close friend more than a political ally.

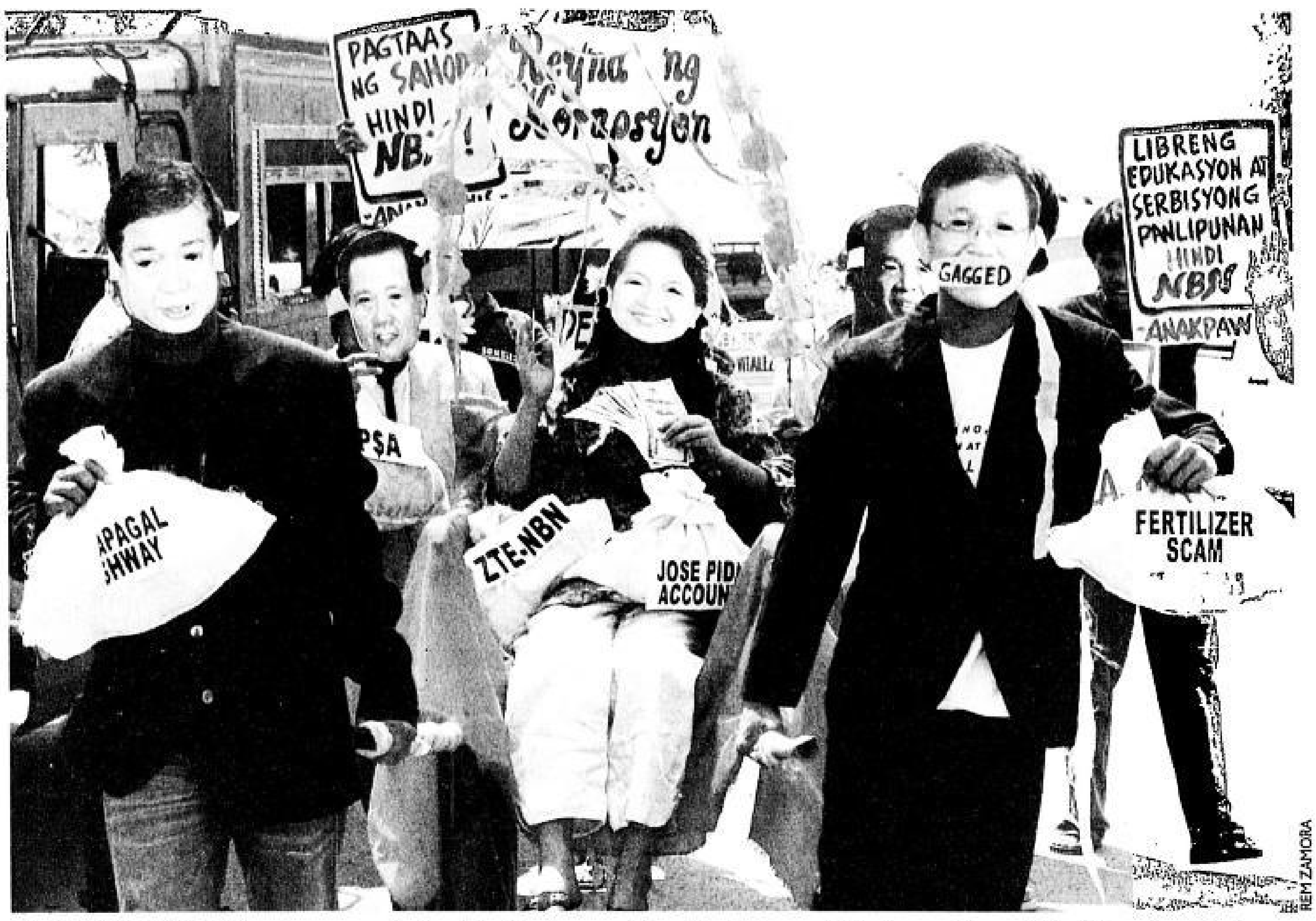
Abalos was a key figure in the Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats, De Venecia's party, before he was appointed to the Comelec.

Abalos said his friendship with the Speaker remained despite the controversy. "You can't quantify the damage (suffered) by a person in terms of money," he said of the scandal's impact on him.

Retiring in February

Time may be on Abalos' side.

The House has a tight schedule in the coming weeks and may not have enough time to tackle the impeachment complaint before Abalos retires in February 2008, Rep. Ronaldo Zamora said.



LOOKS FAMILIAR: Militants wear masks bearing the images of President Arroyo, Mike Arroyo, Romulo Neri, Leandro Mendoza and Benjamin Abalos, the powerhouse cast in the NBN scandal, during a rally in front of the Senate building in Pasay City.

Zamora, the House minority leader, said aside from impeachment, lawmakers were studying other options, including filing criminal charges against Abalos.

Sorsogon Rep. Jose Solis, a member of the "pro-Arroyo only" bloc in the House, assured Abalos at the budget hearing that he would not support the impeachment complaint.

He noted that Abalos was due to retire in February, anyway.

Presidential Legal Counsel Sergio Apostol predicted the defeat of any impeachment case against Abalos despite Neri's explosive testimony.

Faster than a speeding bullet

"Impeachment is quasi-judicial and quasi-political. It is a matter of numbers," he said.

"I think (Abalos) will be able to squelch the complaint because (the complainants) will have a hard time obtaining the requisite number," Apostol said.

But Casiño said impeaching Abalos "can be faster than a speeding bullet. It really depends on political will."

"I think congressmen will be crossing party lines on this issue," he said.

In the past two years, allies of President Macapagal-Arroyo in the House quashed two impeachment complaints against her over allegations of corruption and vote-rigging in the 2004 elections.

Guingona expressed optimism that his group would have the numbers this time.

"We have received word from the administration congressmen that they are willing to join us in this crusade," he said.

Climaco said she was not alone in the majority in supporting the impeachment move against Abalos.

"This is one thing the members of the majority and even the minority can support," she said.

Asked if her endorsement had the imprimatur of the House leadership, Climaco said: "Zamboanga City has generally been opposition (and) our party's coalition with the administration has been a critical (collaboration)."

"I consulted my constituents in Zamboanga City, the lay leaders.... (and they all agreed) it's really right (to bring justice to the Comelec)," Climaco said.

Climaco said her family had had a number of negative experiences with the Comelec.

9 copies

Before the complaint was filed, Suplico and "volunteer lawyers" Reynold Munsayac and John Rodolfo briefed Casiño and Guingona in the office of Zamora.

They were joined by Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo, Gabriela Rep. Liza Maza and Bayan Muna's third nominee in the May elections, lawyer Neri Colmenares.

Suplico submitted at least nine copies of the complaint and annexes to the office of the secretary general.

The Supreme Court has suspended the project, which seeks to link national agencies with local government units through a high-capacity telecommunications network.

Faced with questions over the government's allegedly corrupt practices, President Arroyo also put it on hold.

ZTE has denied any irregularities. *With a report from Michael Lim Ubac*

Man in eye of storm calm morning after

From page A1

committee less than 12 hours after answering allegations that he had offered bribes in the course of brokering the $329-million National Broadband Network (NBN) deal with China's ZTE Corp.

He described the Senate session hall on Wednesday as a "lion's den," but said he did not regret facing his accusers and some purportedly biased senators.

"I knew what I was walking into ... but at least I was given a chance to explain," he said.

Forty winks

Abalos said the stressful experience did not deprive him of a good night's sleep before the budget hearing.

"Usually I'm snoring even without reaching my bed," he said in Filipino. "That's how I take [things], especially when I know that my conscience is clear. I'm not bothered at all."

It apparently helped that Lagman laid down the ground rules before Abalos was called upon to defend the Comelec budget. It helped, too, that minority lawmakers were not around to raise the NBN deal.

"He's here not to defend himself personally because he did that already [on Wednesday]," Lagman told the members of the appropriations committee. "He's here to defend the budget of the Comelec, so ... we will limit questions [to those] related to the budget."

At the impromptu press conference after the hearing, Abalos said he had expected the antagonism of a number of senators.

Still, he said, he defied the advice of his lawyer and friends not to make an appearance: "I told them that I had to face everybody because I had a clear conscience."

If there were any regrets, it was that certain senators had made a "prejudgment" way before they had heard his side, he said.

"They think he's god-sent," Abalos said of Romulo Neri, the former socioeconomic planning secretary who had accused Abalos of offering him P200 million in exchange for supporting the NBN deal.

Truth, principles

At the Comelec, Abalos' colleagues expressed support for him.

But Commissioner Rene Sarmiento said that while the man deserved the poll body's support, "truth and principles should be the paramount concern."

Sarmiento said he and the other commissioners were hoping that the truth would come out soon for the good of the public.

He said the Comelec understood the seriousness of the allegations against Abalos and the latter's denials—all

ABALOS: My conscience is clear.

INQUIRER PHOTO

made under oath.

In a separate interview, Commissioner Romeo Brawner said the poll body was "one big family," and that its officers would continue to stand by Abalos.

Brawner said he personally believed in Abalos' innocence in the charges, which he described as "a product of evil motives."

"Since he [Abalos] is my colleague and boss in the Comelec, you can't blame me for entertaining the belief that all these are drummed-up charges. Honestly, I feel he is not guilty," Brawner told the INQUIRER.

He said he hoped that Abalos would be able to hurdle the controversy "with flying colors."

Brawner also said that while the Comelec as an institution was being dragged into the controversy because of Abalos' alleged involvement, the poll body's integrity remained intact.

He dismissed the controversy as part of dirty politics, saying "anybody can be blamed for anything" nowadays. *With a report from Beverly T. Natividad*

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(PDI--Sept. 28, 2007)

Troublesome Japanese to be deported

By Margaux C. Ortiz

THE BUREAU OF Immigration is set to deport a Japanese national who allegedly caused trouble in his neighborhood in Davao for the past three years.

Immigration Commissioner Marcelino Libanan said Shin Komatsu, 55, is detained at the BI jail in Bicutan, Taguig City, pending deportation proceedings.

Libanan said Komatsu was arrested last Aug. 29 at his house in Bansalan, Davao Del Sur by operatives of the bureau's Migration Compliance and Monitoring Group following complaints from his neighbors who accused him of being "a troublesome drunkard."

"There is no doubt that he had become a public charge and his continued presence in the country is causing trouble and giving unnecessary burden to residents in his neighborhood," Libanan said in a statement.

Komatsu's neighbors earlier submitted to the bureau a petition calling for the deportation of the Japanese national "for being an undesirable alien."

According to the petition, Komatsu has been overstaying in the country for the past three years.

Libanan said Komatsu had been the object of complaints filed with the local police, including arson charges in July 2005 when he allegedly burned a house along Villa Doneza Street.

The Japanese national again ran amuck last Aug. 2 at the house of his landlord after joining a drinking session.

Immigration records showed that Komatsu arrived in the country in July 2004 and married a Filipina, who is working in Japan.

"The Japanese national, however, could not produce his passport during his arrest, making him an undocumented alien," Libanan said.

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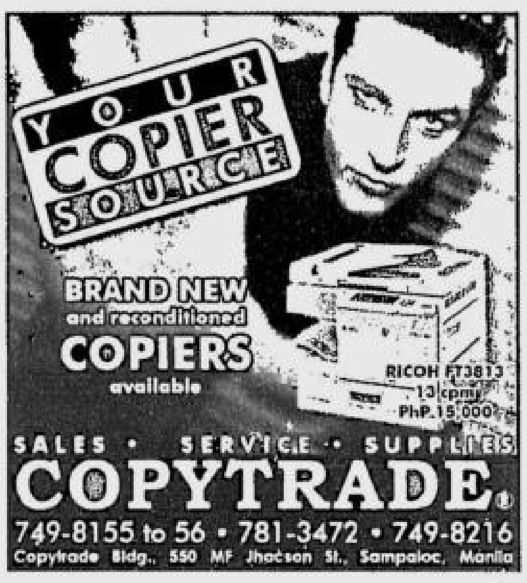

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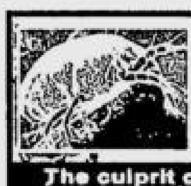

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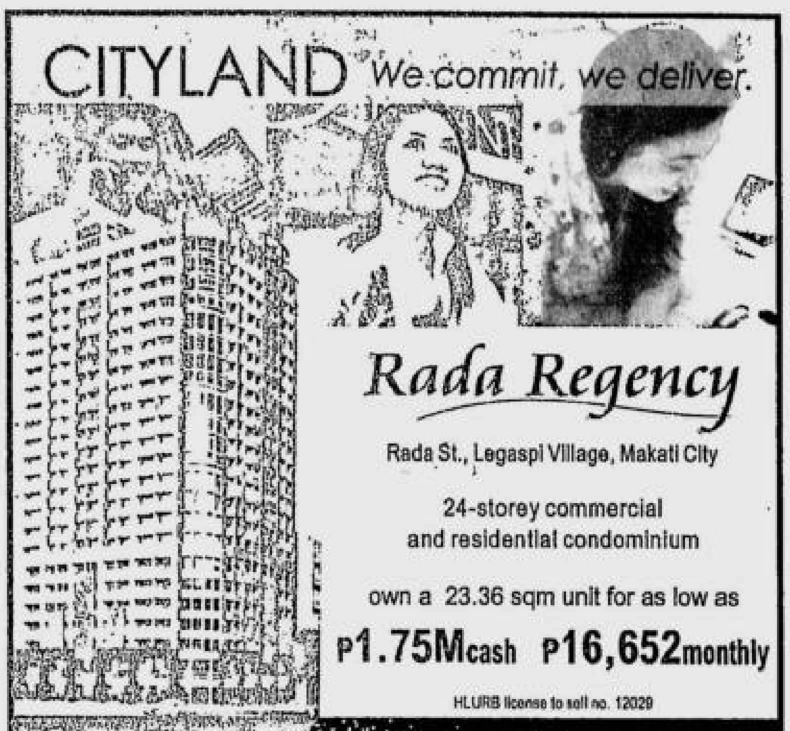

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NDC
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The NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMPANY (NDC) invites interested bidders for the sale of its property with a total area of 1,155 square meters located along Mc Arthur Highway Brgy. San Sebastian, Tarlac City in cash and on an "as-is, where is" basis. The minimum bid is set at P7.957 Million

Interested parties may register and secure Bidding Guidelines upon payment of P500.00 which is non-refundable beginning October 1, 2007 at:

NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMPANY
c/o The Secretariat
Disposal Committee
6th Floor, National Development Company
116 Tordesillas St., Salcedo Village, Makati City
Direct Line (02) 840-13-38 (02) 840-11-47,
Trunk Line (02) 840-48-38 Locals 212 and 269

A pre-bid conference shall be held on 12 October 2007 at 9:30 AM at the Alberto Barretto Hall, National Development Company Bldg., 116 Tordesillas St., Salcedo Village, Makati City

Bids must be sealed and submitted between 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM of 17 October 2007 labeled and addressed as follows:

THE CHAIRMAN
Disposal Committee
National Development Company
6th Floor, NDC Building
116 Tordesillas St., Salcedo Village
Makati City

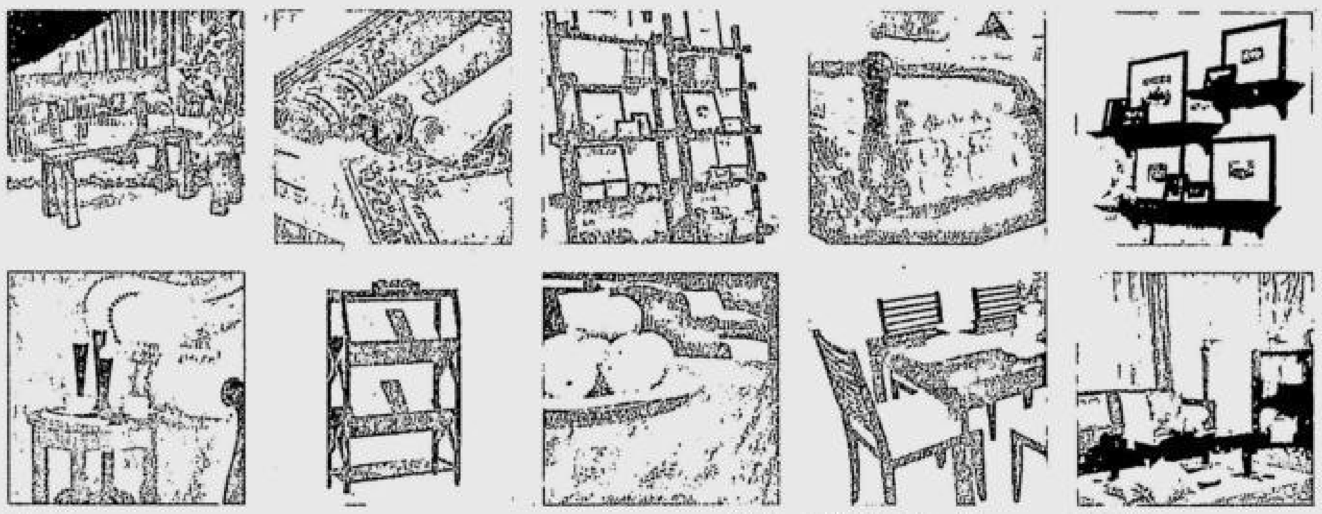
CODE: TARLAC CITY PROPERTY

The opening of sealed bids, prepared in the prescribed forms and accompanied by a 10% bid bond, is scheduled on 17 October 2007 at 2:30 PM at the NDC Alberto Barretto Hall, NDC Building in the presence of all bidder(s) and/or their authorized representative(s). Bids submitted after 2:00 PM shall no longer be accepted.

The NDC Disposal Committee reserves the right to reject any and all bids or to waive any of the formalities required, or accept only such bids, which are deemed advantageous to NDC.

Disposal Committee Chairman

(PDI–September 28, 29 & 30, 2007)



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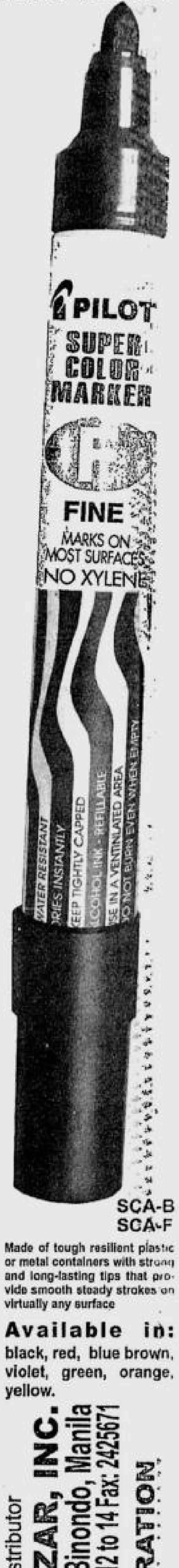

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Clinton: Everybody is afraid of Gloria

From page A1

quoted Clinton telling her before she went up the stage to participate in one of the sessions of the forum held at the Sheraton hotel here.

Clinton moderated the discussions on poverty alleviation and religious tensions.

Ms Arroyo was the only woman on the six-member panel that included South African Archbishop Desmond Tutu, former US Vice President Al Gore, Afghanistan President Hamid Karzai, Wal-Mart chief executive officer H. Lee Scott and World Bank president Robert Zoelick.

Tutu, a Nobel peace laureate, talked about the plight of Burmese leader Aung San Suu Kyi, whose continued house arrest has sparked a new round of protests against the military junta in her country. *(Story on this page.)*

Tutu's pin-up girl

Tutu said he admired Suu Kyi, calling her his "pin-up" girl for her quiet leadership qualities.

"That may be the reason why they are scared of her," Clinton replied in reference to Aung San Suu Kyi. He then said: "Everybody in the Philippines is scared of Gloria."

"Not too long ago, people were writing her off, that she was in terrible trouble. That the Philippines was in terrible trouble," Clinton said in introducing Ms Arroyo, whom he described as a former classmate at Georgetown University and a friend of many years.

"But she took a lot of tough economic positions and the economy had a complete turnaround and she's on the way up now. She's in good shape," he said.

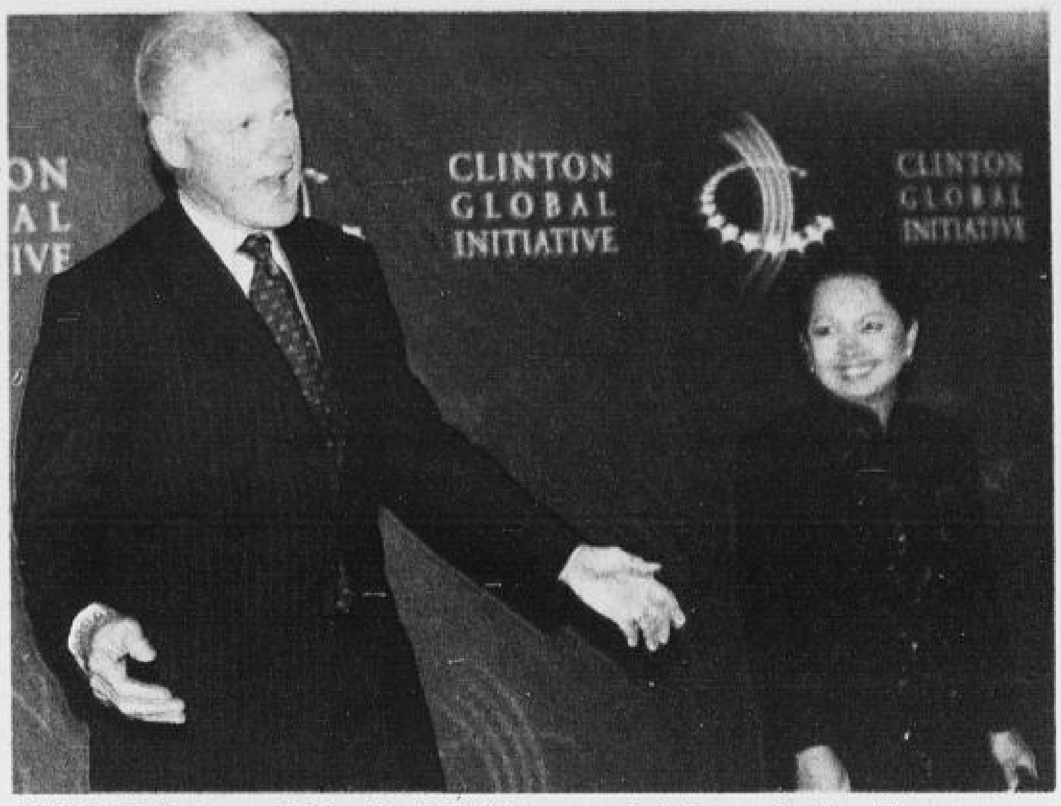
Clinton then asked how Ms Arroyo was promoting reconciliation given the "religious differences" in the country, especially in Mindanao.

Paradigm for peace

Ms Arroyo told Clinton that her administration had a "paradigm for peace" and this involved confidence-building measures through interfaith dialogue and cultural awareness.

Ms Arroyo said the peace initiative was being promoted by the country's Roman Catholic bishops and Muslim religious leaders called ulama and that this was also part of the government's Medium Term Development Plan.

The government is also pushing basic infrastructure and economic development, Ms Arroyo said, citing World Bank projects in Mindanao that not only involve building bridges, roads and schools but also trust between communities.



MARVELOUS: Former US President Bill Clinton marvels at the way President Arroyo was able to turn the economy around when "people were writing her off not too long ago" at the Clinton Global Initiative.
MALACANANG PHOTO

She also told Clinton that her administration hoped to firm up a peace agreement with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front because this would bring in more development projects to Mindanao.

"We find that the investment in people is paying off because peace doesn't come from the barrel of a gun, that's what we found. We have to give a person human dignity, food on the table, and we have to invest in people," Ms Arroyo said.

Geothermal power

Clinton asked Ms Arroyo about the Philippines' use of geothermal plants to generate electricity.

He said the Philippines was regarded as No. 1 in the world in generating electricity from geothermal power, and that this accounted for 24 percent of total electricity in the country.

"We are endowed with geothermal power and it fits very well in our Green Philippines program," Ms Arroyo replied. "We want to use clean energy, we want to have energy independence, and geothermal power gives us clean energy and independence."

She said that before her trip to New York, she went to Leyte to attend the turnover to the government of a geothermal power project that a private company undertook under a build-operate-transfer scheme.

Economic zones

Ms Arroyo said her administration was encouraging the setting up of economic zones near geothermal power sites.

"Because not only can geothermal fields give us power but they give us jobs because local governments earn royalties from geothermal power and by law they can only use it, most of it, for electricity," she explained.

This meant that local government would be subsidizing the electric bills of their constituents. This then will prod power-intensive firms to set shop in these economic zones, the President said.

Her explanation elicited a grin from Clinton who told the audience: "You can really clap for that. That's good."

CLINTON GLOBAL INITIATIVE
CLINTON GLOBAL INITIATIVE

THE BIG PICTURE: President Arroyo is one of six panelists at the Clinton Gl
2005. She's joined by (from right) ex-US Vice President Al Gore, Archbishop
president Robert Zoellick and H. Lee Scott, president/CEO of Wal-Mart. Th
world's most pressing problems.

GMA takes break; is entr

From page A1

day, Ms Arroyo took a break from her packed schedule to attend the matinee show at the Broadhurst Theatre.

The President sat near the back of the packed theater and was accompanied by a group that included Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye, Finance Secretary Margarito Teves and Trade Secretary Peter Favila.

After the show, when most of the audience had left, Ms Arroyo and her party went up the stage to congratulate Salonga and other members of the cast and pose for photographs.

"Congratulations. We are so proud of you," Ms Arroyo told Salonga and Filipino-Americans Adam Jacobs and Ali Ewoldt. Salonga played the role of Fantine, while Jacobs and Ewolt played Marius and Eponine, respectively.

Entranced

Chatting with reporters, Ms Arroyo said she had seen "Les Miserables" countless times but she considered this particular show "special."

"We were entranced by your performance," she told Salonga.

Saying that she had performed for the President on previous occasions, Salonga told the Chief Executive that she and the cast felt honored that Ms Arroyo came to watch the show.

"It was also fortunate that her seat was pretty far back so I didn't get too intimidated, except that I saw a row of neckties. Ah, they are in the back there somewhere," Salonga said, eliciting laughter.

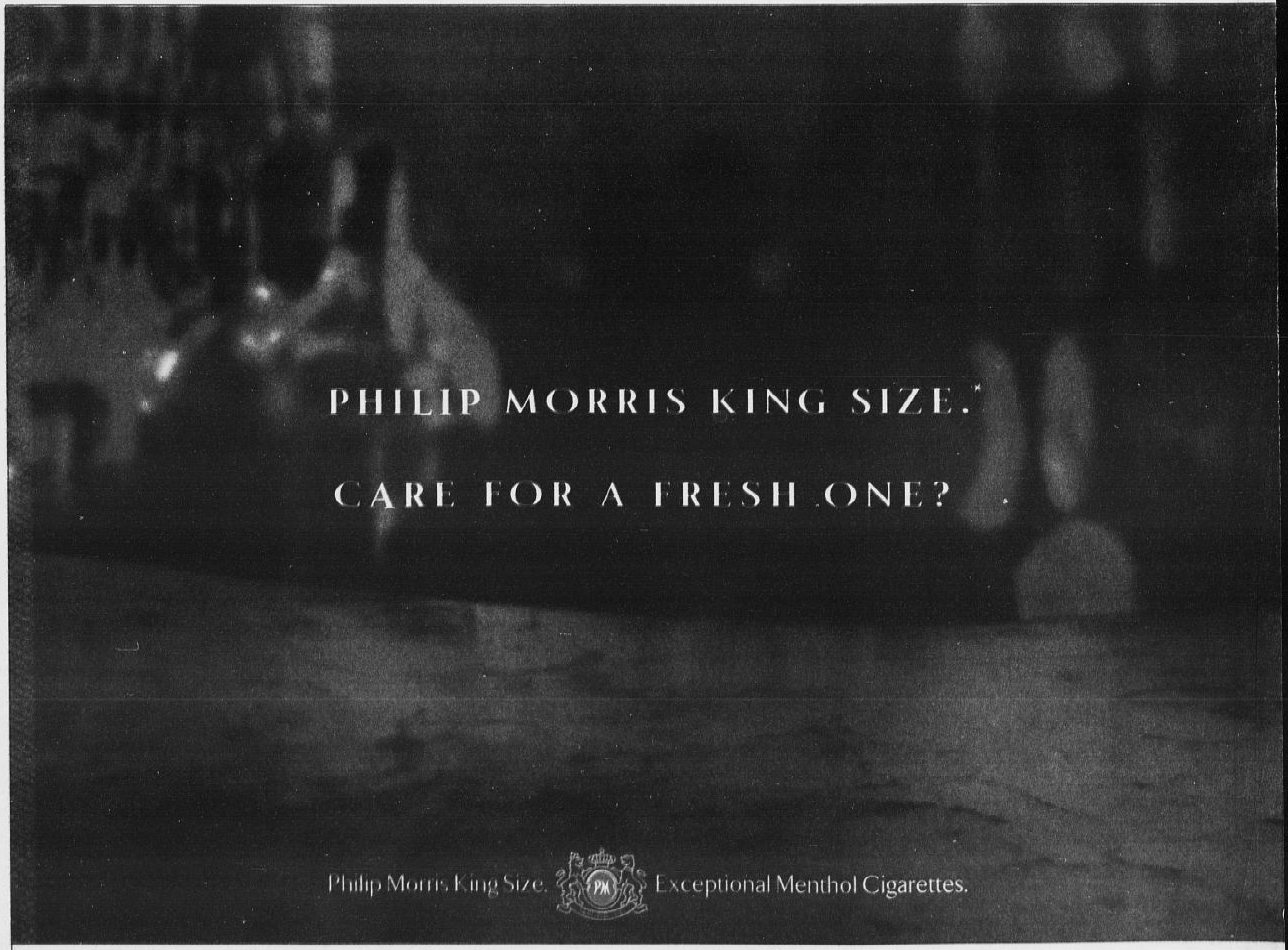
"It was an honor for us ... because you are the star," Ms Arroyo replied.

In an interview later with reporters, Salonga said she was glad that she and the cast were able to "provide some sort of respite, a bit of a break" for Ms Arroyo.

Rise above woes

This was after she was told that Ms Arroyo had left Manila on Tuesday with allegations of overpricing and bribery hounding her administration's National Broadband Network project with China and her husband Jose Miguel Arroyo being dragged into the scandal.

"I really hope that whatever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obal Initiative which ex-US President Bill Clinton (extreme left) launched in Desmond Tutu, President Hamid Karzai of Afghanistan, World Bank CGI brings together a community of innovative solutions to some of the

MALACAÑANG PHOTO

anced by Lea in 'Les Miz'

COFFEE BREAK: President Arroyo meets with World War II veterans during coffee with the Filipino community leaders at the Waldorf Astoria where she's billeted.

MALACAÑANG PHOTO

problems she is having at home that she is able to rise above whatever is going on," Salonga said.

She expressed the hope that when Ms Arroyo returned to the Philippines, she would be a "little bit more refreshed and renewed and be able to tackle whatever is going on at home."

"I mean every President we had since the beginning of time has to endure some kind of opposition of some sort and this is no exception," Salonga said.

GMA orders creation of seven more economic zones near geothermal sites

By Michael Lim Ubac

IN LINE WITH HER GOAL TO "DEVELOP" more economic zones, President Macapagal-Arroyo has ordered the creation of seven more economic zones in places adjacent to geothermal-producing sites.

Ms Arroyo, in Executive Order No. 661 signed on Sept. 10 and released Wednesday, directed local government units to develop the zones in coordination with the Philippine Economic Zone Authority (Peza).

The areas are Tiwi in Albay; Makban, which borders mounts Makiling and Banahaw in Laguna; Tongonan, which borders Ormoc and Kananga in Leyte; Palinpinon in Valencia, Negros Oriental; Bacman, which borders Bacon and Manito in Sorsogon and Albay, respectively; Mt. Apo on the border of Kidapawan in North Cotabato, and Murcia in Negros Occidental.

Ms Arroyo said "the government is adopting measures to give open access to private and publicly owned economic zones in sourcing their power with the end in view of lowering the power cost in the economic zones and to promote competitiveness."

She noted that the country had one of the highest industrial power rates in Southeast Asia, and that majority of the biggest power consumers were industrial locators in economic zones.

"There is a compelling need for a more reliable, economical, competitive and efficient power supply to provide quality electricity to power-sensitive industrial locators in the economic zones and to encourage future locators," Ms Arroyo said.

Tax duties on imports

To curb smuggling in the Subic Special Economic Zone, Ms Arroyo issued EO 660 on Sept. 13 that would impose taxes on imported goods and equipment of registered enterprises there in excess of their requirements.

The President noted that under existing law, registered businesses, enterprises and locators within Subic were exempt from national internal revenues and custom duties on their imports of raw materials, capital goods and equipment for their business operations.

ARROYO Regime!!
Enough of Corruption
Enough of the Arroyo Regime!!
HUM SECU ACT 2007!

GMA NEVER LEFT HOME. Filipinos in New York raise the same issues that hound President Arroyo back home. They picket in front of the Waldorf Astoria where Ms Arroyo is billeted until her departure on Friday.

INQUIRER.NET/LIRA D. FERNANDEZ

"There is a need to ensure that raw materials ... are only those required for their business activities and operations," she said, stressing that the "government needs additional revenue to finance the country's economic and development programs and projects."

Ms Arroyo said that imported goods and equipment "in excess of the requirements of their registered business ... shall be deemed brought into or sold within the customs territory and, therefore, subject to the payment of taxes and custom duties in accordance with existing customs and tax laws."

She directed the Bureau of Customs and the Bureau of Internal Revenue, in coordination with the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA), to issue appropriate issuances or circulars to "clarify and/or simplify" the documentation, procedures, tax treatment and payment of taxes and duties of the excess importations."

Condemnation process

Amid the rampant smuggling of vehicles into Subic, the government, upon the order of the President, destroyed 18 smuggled cars in a nationally televised event on Aug. 16 that was described by Customs Commissioner Napoleon Morales as a "condemnation process."

However, the Department of Finance, Bureau of Customs and the SBMA spared from destruction other smuggled luxury vehicles such as a Corvette, Lamborghini, Porsches, Audis and Cadillacs they had earlier said they would destroy.

Some 100 officials and employees of the BOC are involved in the smuggling of cars and other items via the country's free ports, according to Antonio Villar Jr., chief of the newly created Presidential Anti-Smuggling Group.

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Corrupt

EDITORIAL

IN OUR COLLECTIVE DISAPPOINTMENT OVER CHEd Chairman Romulo Neri's frustrated testimony last Wednesday, let us not lose sight of a truly significant gain: clear and credible testimony, by a Cabinet-level official, that Commission on Elections Chairman Benjamin Abalos is corrupt.

"Sec, *may 200 ka dito*," Abalos allegedly told Neri while they were discussing the National Broadband Network and the ZTE arrangement during a golf game. Considering the magnitude of the project, Neri said he assumed Abalos was offering him a P200-million bribe.

Abalos took his time issuing a denial. First he qualified his accuser's statement: "I don't understand what 200 he is talking about." (This was a detail he kept bringing up during Wednesday's 11-hour hearing.) Then he raised a rhetorical question: "Why would I offer him a bribe?" (Another point he made more than once.) Then finally the denial: "He is lying as far as that is concerned."

But Neri, sometimes needlessly punctilious on other details, replied sweepingly: "I have a very clear recollection of that incident."

Neri's accusation is the second bribery charge levied against Abalos during the ongoing Senate joint committee hearings on the NBN project. Last week, businessman Jose "Joey" de Venecia III testified that Abalos offered him $10 million to back out of the NBN project.

Abalos has denied De Venecia's charge, and in similar fashion. He attacked his accuser's credibility and then professed his innocence by raising the question of motive. Why, he wants to know, would he offer anyone a bribe?

Why? Because, if the information we glean from four days of sometimes riveting testimony is anything to go by, he was brokering for ZTE.

This is a point he has vigorously denied. Abalos has said repeatedly that he has no financial or other interest, either in ZTE's deal or in the NBN. And yet, to a reasonable observer, his actions since last year clearly draw a disturbing picture of a powerful official peddling make-or-break influence.

Let's get this clear. Abalos said last Wednesday he was close to certain officers of ZTE; it was a friendship he did not deny, he told the Senate. And yet only a couple of weeks ago, Abalos did precisely that: he denied his closeness to ZTE by telling reporters it was his daughter who was close to them.

Abalos said last Wednesday he became close to ZTE officers only early last year. It is hard to avoid the conclusion, however, that this friendship must have been, shall we say, expedited, because before the year was up, and according to Abalos' own testimony, businessmen like De Venecia were already seeking him out precisely for his perceived closeness to ZTE.

Abalos said last Wednesday he did not travel "several" times to China, but only four times during the period in question, and that only one of these four directly concerned ZTE. We find this hard to believe. Abalos is certainly wily, more slippery than an eel, but even if we grant him the benefit of the doubt, this much is clear: the Dec. 27, 2006 meeting in China with ZTE officials where De Venecia was present is already proof of illegal influence-peddling. That one meeting alone, which he said he took part in as a concession to De Venecia's persistence and as a favor to the businessman's father, Speaker Jose de Venecia, is already proof that Abalos acted as a broker—if not for ZTE, then for the Filipino businessman. Either way, that is impeachable conduct by the country's top election official.

Abalos said last Wednesday he was merely the target of a choreographed smear campaign. But it is his track record that taints him, not the latest accusations. He tried to turn the tables on Neri, suggesting that it was the low-profile, non-political former socioeconomic planning secretary who was in fact the deal's broker. But his accusation did not stick, because Neri does not have that kind of reputation.

On the other hand, the alleged bribery attempts, the nonetoo-subtle brokering for ZTE, the running to First Gentleman Mike Arroyo to get a rival to "back off"—all these have the ring of truth, not only because they come from credible sources, but because Abalos has had his fingers caught in other cookie jars before.

Open and shut—that's the case against Abalos. Congress should impeach him.

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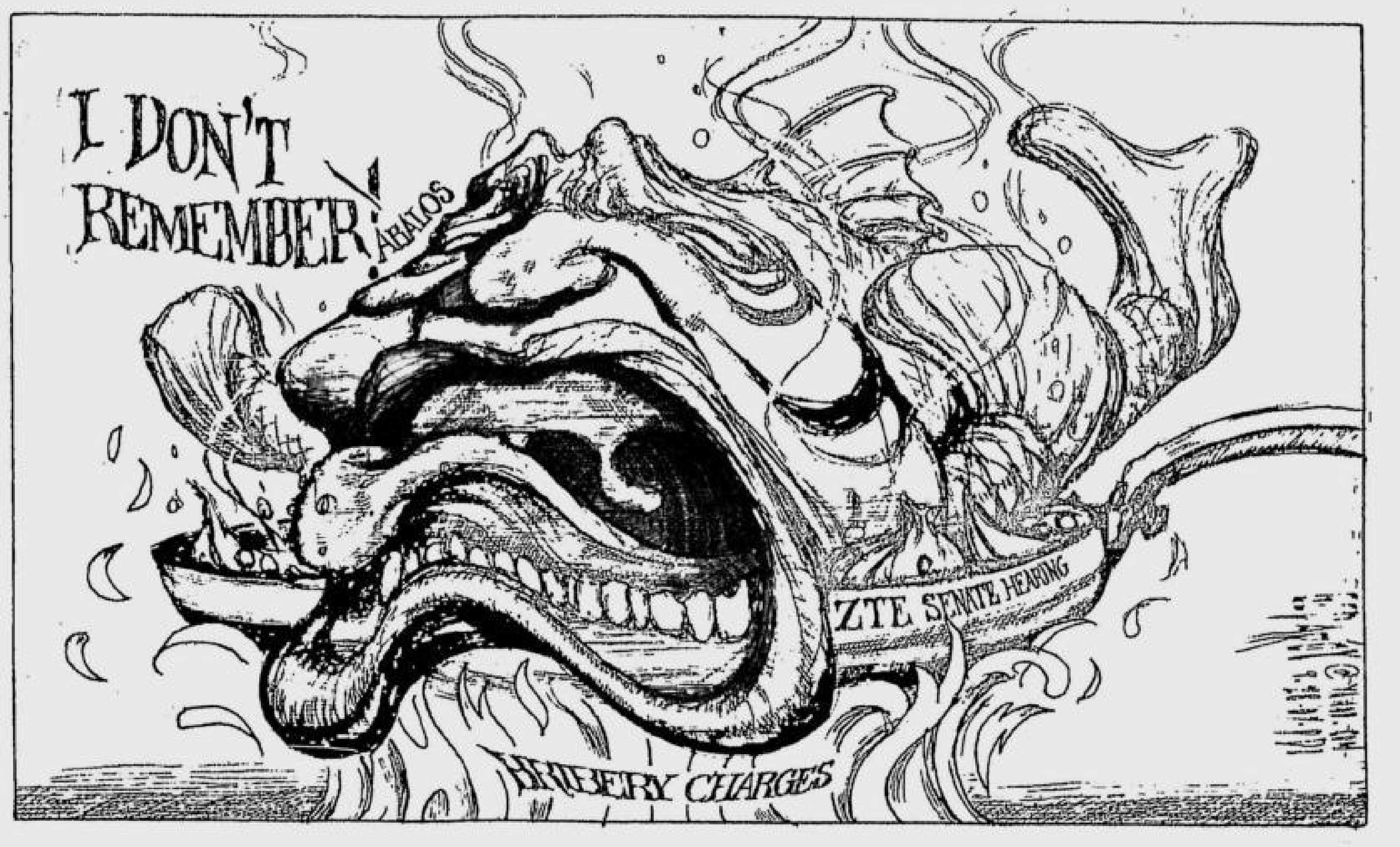


Tenejeros River can easily be saved

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

LAST WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 26, WE REPORTED the aborted boat tour by Environment Secretary Lito Atienza of the Marilao-Meycauayan-Obando river system, which has become world famous after it was listed as one of the 30 most polluted places in the world. I suggested that Atienza also try a tour of the Tenejeros-Tullahan River which is also one of the most polluted rivers in the world. I suggested it because it is relatively easier to nurse back to health.

The Tenejeros-Tullahan River runs through Malabon and Valenzuela, which used to be famous for their fishponds. It used to supply fresh sea water to the fishponds when its water was clean. Thousands of families earned a livelihood from it. A person needed but to get into it with a net, a spear, a trap or a hook and line, and he was sure to go home a few hours later with enough fish, shrimps, crabs or oysters for the family.

The riverbanks used to be lined with thick growths of mangrove where crabs clambered among the roots and kingfishers waited on the branches to dive down to catch fish in the water below. The river used to be a playground for children living near the river. Many a child learned how to swim and fish there. I grew up there, and my childhood chums and I spent many happy times there. Not anymore.

The river is now a cesspool. The fishponds are dead. No fish can survive in them. They have been covered with dirt and converted into subdivisions and memorial parks—or squatter colonies. Factories lining the river throw their effluents into the river and hordes of squatters on the riverbanks make it their open sewer. This is the water that floods the homes of Malabon and Valenzuela during high tides and heavy rains. The filling up of the fishponds and especially Dagatdagatan, a lake where the Bureau of Fisheries unsuccessfully tried to make *sabalos*, adult milkfish, spawn (the bangus that we buy in the markets are just baby milkfish), made the floods deeper and faster. Excess water used to run into the ponds and Dagatdagatan. With them filled up, the floodwaters have nowhere to go but to the streets and the homes.

The Tenejeros-Tullahan River can be revived. It is a relatively short river. It begins in Manila Bay and ends in Binuangan in Bulacan, still in Manila Bay. The rising and falling of the tides that occurs twice a day can cleanse it of the pollution—provided no new pollutants are thrown in. That means relocating the factories and squatters.

To begin with, there should be a law prohibiting factories and industrial and commercial establishments from locating near waterways. They will always try to throw their wastes into them, if they're near enough.

To prevent the regular flooding, the Japanese government has given the Philippines a loan to build dikes along the banks of the Tenejeros-Tullahan River. Properly used, the fund can, besides preventing flooding, accomplish five other major benefits: (1) prevent pollution of the river; (2) provide two more roads from Malabon to Bulacan; (3) increase the value of the lands along the river; (4) increase the tax revenues of the two cities; and (5) prevent unscrupulous people from stealing parts of the river.

Owners of lots beside the river steal parts of it by filling up the river alongside their lots, thus illegally expanding their properties and narrowing the waterway. To stop this, I propose that roads be built on top of the dikes, one on each bank of the river.

That way: (1) lot owners along the riverbanks can no longer steal parts of the river; (2) factories and squatters can no longer throw their wastes into the river (they can be seen by passing motorists and pedestrians); (3) the market value of the lots along the river (now only unsightly backyards) will increase because they will now have street frontages; (4) with the increase in the value of these lots, the local governments will collect bigger real estate taxes, and with the setting up of commercial establishments along these new roads, business taxes will also increase; and (5) with the new roads running on the banks of the river, it would be easier and faster for Camanava folk to commute.

In addition, with the river water already clean, ferries can carry passengers and cargo from Bulacan, Pampanga and other points north down the Tenejeros-Tullahan River to Manila Bay and the towns along the way, easing the traffic load on the MacArthur Highway in Bulacan and the Coastal Road to Cavite. In the old days, big flat-bottomed boats called "*cascos*" were poled down this river with their loads of rice, sugar, salt, vinegar and nipa shingles from Bulacan to be sold in Malabon, Navotas and other towns along Manila Bay.

With the water clean, the river can once more be a center not only of transportation but also of leisure, entertainment and tourism such as boating, swimming and fishing. Also, people will again have a livelihood from the marine life of the river.

What are needed for this to happen? Only the will power and perseverance of the mayors and other officials of Malabon and Valenzuela, the cooperation of their citizens, and the help of the national and foreign governments.

* * *

TODAY'S JOKES: Only in the Philippines does the government immediately offer a convict a pardon and the convict sets the conditions for the pardon.

* * *

Paper and pen ousted Marcos. Envelope ousted Erap. Tape is being used to oust GMA. Only in the Philippines are presidents toppled by office supplies.

Anti-Chinese racism

PASSION FOR REASON

Raul C. Pangalangan

WEDNESDAY'S SENATE HEARING BROUGHT out into the open whatever latent racism lingers within the Filipino soul. The irony is that we are a nation of migrant workers, who are often victims of racist bigotry in host countries abroad, and those of us in the old country protest each time we hear a derogatory stereotype against one of our kind.

If only for that reason—and there are other and better reasons—the anti-Chinese remarks by no less than the chair of the Senate committee on foreign relations have no place in the records of the Senate or, for that matter, in any conversation in the Philippines.

Many of the senators have cast personal affronts against the dramatis personae in the National Broadcast Network scandal. I lament them all, these terrible slurs against individuals: Chairman Benjamin Abalos' friendship with a woman (only his friendship with ZTE officers was at issue), Jose "Joey" de Venecia III's past drug habit (he smoked and did inhale while in college), or Secretary Romulo Neri's credentials to chair the Commission on Higher Education (he lacks a Ph.D., a job requirement, but then he holds office merely in an "acting" capacity).

These insults cross the line on what questions are proper for a Senate inquiry. If President Macapagal-Arroyo earlier had the gumption to issue EO 464 to shield witnesses from inquisitive and inquisitorial senators, it was precisely because of these public displays of arrogance by the senators themselves. They grate against the Filipino sensibility. The personal questions asked during the NBN hearings—and for that matter, the probing into the love life of the amorous former T/Sgt. Vidal Doble during the Garci Tapes hearing on Tuesday—merely remind the public why Malacañang was so cocky that it had public sympathy for its gag orders. The Senate must not give the Palace more ammunition in this battle.

But it was the wholesale attack against Chinese the world over that takes the cake. Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago proclaimed: "China invented civilization in the East and corruption for all of civilization."

Sure the Senate must not be used to enforce honor among thieves—and it was this that infuriated Santiago—and the NBN debate truly has elements of a "squabble over kickbacks," as she says, or a "battle among commissioners" in Sen. Joker Arroyo's words. And it can also be fairly said that the Chinese government's sweetheart deals with local predatory elites are part of its charm offensive that pushes "tied aid" one step forward; it ties the donee to the donor state, and the donor state to the local political lords. But this does not allow us to impute corruption as a national trait, indeed, as ingrained historically in the character of a people, and worse, to use the pejorative label "*Intsik*."

The insular Filipino must be reminded that the Middle Kingdom can very well claim to have the world's finest civilization, and—while racial discrimination exists all over the world, against foreigners, in general, and against Asians, in particular—it is only in Southeast Asia where a specific form of anti-Chinese bigotry persists. In other words, it is mainly in Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines where we find the potent cocktail of an ethnic group that is economically well-placed but politically excluded.

To be fair to the Philippines, our record on this score is much better than our Asean neighbors'. Malaysia has racial quotas in school admissions and even faculty appointments, and yet has managed to stay below the radar screen that could have easily spotted a clear case of apartheid. In Jakarta, as recent as the May 1998 riots leading to the fall of President Suharto, there were genocidal attacks against the ethnic Chinese, committed by gangs of men prowling freely while the police looked the other way. In contrast, the Philippines has elected as president no less than Corazon Cojuangco-Aquino, a second-generation Chinese, and has long hailed as its national heroes Chinese mestizos like Jose Rizal.

There is a classic 1957 Supreme Court decision upholding the exclusion of all foreigners from the retail trade, when in fact the target was Chinese storekeepers. The Court adopted the nationalist credo that "alien control and dominance [endangers] the national interest." The alien "owes allegiance to the country of his birth ... his stay here is for personal convenience ... gain and profit." He does "not invest [his earnings] in industries that ... increase [our] national wealth" but instead remits them to his family back home. But let us ask ourselves: Don't OFWs today do exactly the same thing, and aren't we all the better for it? Or is it just karma catching up with the narrow-minded Pinoy?

But the real peril of racial prejudice is this quote from the Court's decision. Citing all the "pernicious" trade practices, the Court concluded: The Chinese have "cheated the operation of the law of supply and demand." Whoa! Hold your horses! So finally we have met Adam Smith's nemesis, someone who can defy the law of supply and demand and, along the way, maybe even the law of gravity as well!

The Philippine Congress has wisely repealed the retail trade nationalization law and I hope that Filipinos have gotten over the racism of the 1950s. The Chinese-Filipino community has prospered even more—thanks to the retail nationalization law, they abandoned their *sari-sari* stores and invested in banks and manufacturing. Chinoy culture has thrived and, in my reckoning, has already mainstreamed.

We are stereotyped as illegal aliens in First World capitals, and we fight it. But we cannot fight invidious stereotyping if we ourselves engage in it. We must put an end to this bigotry once and for all.

* * *

Comments to passionforreason@mail.com

BOT, BOO, BT, BLT, ROT, ROO, etc.

COMMENTARY

Felicito C. Payumo

THE LETTERS ABOVE ARE NOT AN ALPHABET soup. They are variants of the generic BOT scheme authorized under RA 6957, the Build-Operate-Transfer Law, and RA 7718 which amends it. In the Senate hearings on the ZTE contract, BOT and BOO have been repeatedly mentioned.

BOT is a contractual arrangement whereby the project proponent undertakes the construction, including financing, of a given infrastructure facility, and the operation and maintenance thereof. In plain English, he builds and operates the facility which the government cannot do for lack of money.

How does the proponent get his money back? He is allowed to "charge facility users appropriate tolls, fees, rentals, and charges not exceeding those proposed in his bid," assuming he has submitted the lowest bid and most favorable terms, "based on the present value of his proposed tolls, fees, rentals and charges over a fixed term…"

But what is a BOO (Build-Own-Operate) contract? It is similar to a BOT, except that the proponent does not have to turn over the facility to the government at the end of a "fixed term which shall not exceed fifty (50) years." In other words, he continues to own and operate the facility. That is why such contractual arrangement must have the recommendation of the Investment Coordination Committee (ICC) of the National Economic and Development Authority and the approval of the President of the Philippines.

Are unsolicited proposals allowed? Yes, under the rationale that government officials do not have the monopoly of ideas for developing our infrastructures. So, the law not only allows but encourages them provided, "(1) that the projects involve a new concept or technology and/or are not part of the list of priority projects, (2) no direct government guarantee, subsidy or equity is required, and (3) the government agency or local government unit has invited by publication, for three consecutive weeks, in a newspaper of general circulation, comparative or competitive proposals, and no other proposal is received for a period of working days, and, that in the event another proponent submits a lower price proposal, the original proponent shall have the right to match that price within thirty (30) working days." Devoid of legalese, the requirements for unsolicited proposals are stricter; competitive proposals are still required except that the original proponent has the right to match them.

That's what Jose de Venecia III has been stressing. His proposal requires no government loan or guarantee, nor does it ask for a take-or-pay provision. He competes with the rates of existing telcos. And it is he who must keep up with technology advances in telecommunications, which has one of the fastest obsolescence in the industry. If he fails, it is he who loses his shirt. Fair enough. Unlike, the $320-million ZTE-government project to be funded by a loan from the China Ex-Im Bank. Do we want another white elephant after we have just finished paying our last amortization for the moth-balled Bataan Nuclear Power Plant?

The bigger question is: Do we need another broadband that the DOTC says will provide seamless connectivity from the national government offices to our 45,000 barangays? Let us answer the following questions: How often do barangay officials need to talk directly to a department secretary or undersecretary? Never. To a bureau director? Seldom, if ever. They call or go to the provincial offices of the DPWH, DOH, DILG, etc., or course their requests through their mayors, congressmen or governors.

How about the need to connect to the 1,600 municipalities? Yes, but let us ask first what percent or how many of these cannot be reached at present through land lines or by mobile phones. We are not even given the information, yet the DOTC officials insist that they be provided seamless connectivity. My guess is that almost all municipal offices in the poblacion can now be reached by voice or text messages. And should there still be some remote municipal offices that are beyond reach, the government can require the telcos to blanket the areas with cell sites within a fixed timetable. In fact, the telcos do it without being told, when there is a need for it.

It has been announced that President Macapagal-Arroyo has suspended the implementation of the National Broadband Network project along with the Cyber Education Project. In case the latter gets revived, we should ask if there is no other delivery vehicle to transmit the lectures of the "expert" gurus on various fields to all public schools, including the remote rural areas, assuming this didactic approach is what our rural children need. Picture malnourished children, who can barely comprehend instructions from their teachers, huddled in front of TV monitors listening to expert lectures on science, math, physics, history, etc. How many classrooms, books, feeding programs and additional teachers can be funded by P23 billion?

If the Department of Education insists that our schoolchildren should imbibe their lessons from master teachers, how about burning their lectures in CDs? How much does a blank CD cost? P20. But if the government buys hundreds of thousands of them the cost could be halved.

Let us do some arithmetic: We now have 45,000 barangays, so we must have at least 45,000 barangay elementary schools. Add the high schools and elementary schools in the cities and poblaciones and we may have few thousands more, but let us assume that we have 100,000 schools to send CDs to. At P10 per CD, that's P12 million a year, assuming the DepEd sends out CDs once every month. Add a few more million pesos for delivery costs and honoraria for the lecturers, say, P20 million. Compare that with the P23-billion cost of the CyberEd project, excluding operating costs.

Ah, but the DepEd wants the lectures broadcast so that they can be viewed instantly. Then, why not use the Knowledge Channel? Or should a month's delay even be an issue? Would 1 plus 1 no longer be 2 after a month, or a year?

Felicito C. Payumo was the principal author of the BOT Law.

The worst punishment

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

THANK GOD I HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING TO merit a Senate investigation.

My late father-in-law used to warn his children never to get entangled with the law because a police record will follow you for the rest of your life. But I think it's even more important to tell our children that if they want to lead a private life, away from the glare of publicity and public attention, then they should never join politics, never accept a public position, never bid for any government contract, or point any accusing fingers at any government official or entity—or else.

Or else… they will reap the worst punishment ever conceived against any human being—being grilled by our senators. I wouldn't wish what befell Joey de Venecia, CHEd Chairman Romulo Neri, Comelec Chairman Benjamin Abalos and a varied cast of supporting characters even on my worst enemy. Imagine, being interrogated for more than eight hours, in the literal glare of public scrutiny and TV lights, berated, hounded and harangued, and having all your decisions and actions, including fathering a possible love child, laid bare before the world and nitpicked ad nauseam.

If Neri, who was said to still be suffering from intestinal flu, was queasy before he entered the Senate hall, he must have been positively nauseous as he left it. By the time the radio coverage (I was in an area without TV) was cut short to give way to the early evening news, I was myself feeling a little dizzy, my head swimming with figures and assertions, truths and counter-truths, excuses and innuendos, and one angry outburst from the Mistress of the Dramatic Walkout. It was concededly extremely entertaining, but as the day wore on, I could just imagine how weary the witnesses were, though our gallant legislators still showed plenty of gusto and had on reserve never-ending rounds of ammunition to hurl at their "invitees."

* * *

NERI'S testimony had been much-anticipated, and when he came out and finally confirmed that indeed Chairman Abalos had told him that there was "200 for you" should the ZTE broadband deal push through, everyone listening thought he had finally found his mojo.

But the rest of his testimony was decidedly anti-climactic. Sen. Mar Roxas was right: even if Neri had told the President about the bribery attempt, he should have warned his "principal" that this was the same contract for which he had been sounded out earlier when the deal came before the President for approval. If the proponents and their agent had P200 million (the amount Neri conceded he thought Abalos was referring to) to spare to bribe a single official, then clearly the project was, at the very least, overpriced. But when asked to explain why the President was dead-set on pushing through with the broadband project, Neri hid behind GMA's skirt, as it were, invoking executive privilege.

And what about Abalos? His standard excuse for his seemingly constant presence whenever the Chinese met with local officials to discuss the project was that he was simply there as a matter of courtesy, being president of Wack Wack golf club and having facilitated the booking of such meetings.

Now, I wonder why the folks at ZTE were so fond of Wack Wack. After all, there are hundreds of golf courses, not to mention hotels and restaurants, which they could book for their trysts and meetings. Why did they always have to meet in a golf course where Abalos has such influence?

* * *

SEN. MIRIAM Defensor-Santiago's tirade against the witnesses had the ring of truth. In essence, the entire controversy boils down to a dispute over kickbacks.

But these are no ordinary kickbacks, and no ordinary adversaries. These are government officials—and their kin—wrangling over the rewards of a very lucrative deal. By that alone, the scandal warrants a Senate investigation.

The lucrative deal, though, could also stand some scrutiny. Basic to the issue is whether the project is needed at all, or whether the government would be better off leaving our telecommunications needs to the more experienced, better disseminated, and proven private sector.

I also take umbrage at Neri's assertion that all that mattered to him and his assistants at Neda was whether there was a potential "return on investment" on the project. How the project was to be financed did not matter. Excuse me, as a taxpayer, the question of how the project is to be financed matters a lot because that's my money they're talking about! If the private sector says it can carry out the broadband project using its own resources, with no obligation at all to the government, shouldn't that be given weight? No matter how low the interest on the loan, the government—that is, the Filipino people—will still be left holding the bag once the project gets going. I think government people, but especially development planners, would want to keep the people's money safe from risk as much as possible.

* * *

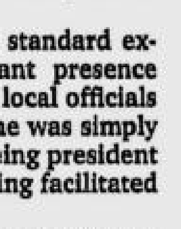
AS THE day drew on, the senators began to use the hearing to ventilate their grievances against the witnesses, particularly Abalos. Understandably, while they were still campaigning and while the votes were being counted, discretion demanded that they keep at least a civil relation with the Comelec chief. But now that Abalos had been haled before the Senate, it seemed everyone was out to give him a piece of his mind.

And this is yet another reason to avoid facing a Senate hearing. I don't have any love lost for Abalos, but I did feel sorry for him that at the twilight of his years in government service, he will be remembered best for his wife's defense of his honor: that after a prostate problem, that "part of his life" has long been over.

Lost in Pandacan

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo



WHEN CAUGHT IN TRAFFIC, I AMUSE MYSELF by using up all the foul language I know. After this brief vocal exercise, I observe how others try to cope. Watching Filipino motorists trying to get out of a jam (usually of their own making) reminds me of those clinical experiments they do with rats in a maze. Better still, it is an example of how lemmings follow each other to the death.

One of the lessons I have learned about Manila traffic, aside from bearing with it, is that you must try as best as you can to get on to and remain on a major road. How many of us have taken a detour in some small alleys to escape traffic, only to get stuck and realize that everyone else had exactly the same idea? Staying on a major street means that help will come at some point, but if you are caught in some forgotten *esquinita*, you are bound to stew for a very long time.

On our way back to Makati from Mendiola the other day, my friend decided to avoid traffic by turning left after Nagtahan Bridge to Pandacan. I thought he would go through the normal route that leads to Santa Ana, but he decided to go deep into old Pandacan, now better remembered for those oil depots along the Pasig that pose a threat to residents because they are a prime target for terrorists. My friend drove into little streets, often having to dole out change to shirtless trolls directing traffic, as some sort of toll.

I am in good hands, I said to myself, he knows his way around. As we admired many old houses in the district, we passed by a monument to "P. Zamora" who is better remembered as the "za" in "Gomburza." I didn't know that one of the martyrs of 1872 came from this place, because I always associate Pandacan with Balagtas. I would explain that all of the streets here were named with "Florante at Laura" as a theme. Unless these old names have been replaced with those of city and local officials, the streets of Pandacan teach or at least remind people about Balagtas and his epic poem that we all endured in high school.

We are told that Balagtas moved from Tondo to Pandacan sometime in 1835 or 1836. There, he fell in love with a certain Maria Asuncion Rivera who is said to be the "Celia," the muse to whom "Florante at Laura" was dedicated. If you will remember the only clue we have to the identity of Celia are the initials "M.A.R."

Herminigildo Cruz, in his often cited book "Kung Sinong Kumatha ng Florante?" actually gives us the names of other women in the bard's life. While textbook history has chosen to immortalize Maria Asuncion Rivera as the muse, there happens to be another contender for the title by the name of Magdalena Ana Ramos, who has unfortunately been forgotten by history.

The next question is why did someone named Maria Asuncion or Magdalena Ana have the nickname "Celia" (depending on the version you are holding, this is also spelled "Selya")? This has not been fully explained, but for a very complicated apocryphal story about M.A.R. having musical talent and being a good pianist. It is said that she got her nickname because there was a painting atop her piano depicting St. Cecilia, patroness of music, amusing angels by playing on an organ.

Leaving this rather obscene story behind, we have to explore other angles, other versions. Aside from the two women who shared Balagtas and the initials M.A.R., there was a third person who stood up to be recognized. The late E. Aguilar Cruz once wrote about a certain Candida San Jose, also of Pandacan, who declared with her dying breath, at the age of 83, that the dedication of Balagtas referred to her grandaunt, Celia Castañeda. Abe Cruz told me this alternative story:

Celia Castañeda was a beautiful woman. (Why should muses always be beautiful? Can't we have someone who can win the annual Miss Ugly—No More—contest?) Her distinguishing feature happened to be long, beautiful hair that extended all the way down to her ankles. (Now that is someone who can make a living endorsing hair products, or even playing Rapunzel in freak shows.) Following the Filipino notion of beauty, Celia had fair skin and was so desirable that Balagtas had many rivals for her hand, including the Spanish *cura* (parish priest) of Pandacan and another forgotten poet by the name Mariano Kapule. To cut a complicated story short, Balagtas was imprisoned on trumped-up charges fabricated by the priest, who then raped the hapless Celia. The gallant Mariano Kapule offered to marry her to preserve her honor, but Celia refused. Celia then took her own life.

This is an anti-friar story popular in the 19th century, and we don't know how reliable it is. For one thing, the sex-starved *cura* and the desolate victim resemble characters in Rizal's novels. So far nothing is certain about the M.A.R. in "Florante at Laura," so we are left with textbook history.

Getting lost in the navel of Pandacan was a welcome experience. When we passed Beata Street I remembered Chapter 62 of the "Noli" where Ibarra and Elias are being pursued along the Pasig, and Elias said, "We must enter the Beata River to make it appear that I am from Peñafrancia. You will see the river of Francisco Baltazar's poems."

That beautiful river is now a black stinking estero. Why is it that when we speak of the Pasig or Manila as a beautiful place, we do so only in the past tense?

* * *

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

Big and small

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

FORMER SOCIOECONOMIC PLANNING SECRETARY Romulo Neri's "200" revelation at the Senate on Wednesday did not surprise me, since rumors about the bribe had been circulating for days earlier. What did strike me was another part of his testimony, when he was asked if he had been pressured by the Chinese negotiating the deal and he answered "no" and then went on to say they were rough. Asked to elaborate, he said they were smoking heavily, and, well, were just rough.

As an anthropologist, I think Neri's remarks should alert us to another angle to this whole mess, of how the Chinese look at us, and how this is communicated.

Neri is said to be fluent in spoken Chinese, and even has some reading and writing skills, which is quite impressive considering how complicated Chinese script is. But I wonder if he had some difficulties interpreting another kind of language, which matters just as much, and this is body language.

Last week, I wrote about the importance of having a foreign language requirement in colleges, but this broadband scandal convinces me we will need more courses around culture itself, especially inter-cultural communication, for people intending to go international, whether for business, foreign or diplomatic service, or quite simply, to work abroad.

Guanxi

Let's look at the broadband deal. I was surprised to hear Neri mention that the Chinese negotiators were smoking heavily while dealing with their Filipino counterparts. Yes, the Chinese are heavy smokers, and many are still unaware that passive smoking is almost as harmful as smoking itself. On the other hand, the Chinese are also extremely sensitive about rudeness and will refrain from smoking if told. After all, they were the ones trying to win favor. But it looks as if they have turned the tables around on us, and for good reason.

Being ethnic Chinese myself and having visited China many times, I've had to go through the most complicated rituals and protocols, all planned around notions of "*xiao ren*" (small people) and "*da ren*" (big people). "Big" and "small" here have nothing to do with physical size; rather it's about ranks and power relations. It's this "social size" that spells out who enters the room first, who introduces whom, who sits next to whom in a meal or even a group picture.

At a meal, whenever a new dish is served, you have to get some of it and put it on the plate of the person next to you, if he or she is someone of higher status. This more senior person will protest each time, but that is part of the ritual, too. If you take the protest literally and stop serving, you'll be seen as being rude. You have to keep going, not just with the food but with the tea, and if there are alcoholic drinks, to propose a toast from time to time.

The rituals are vital for acknowledging the social hierarchies and, even more importantly, building networks. By showing you know who the "bosses" are, you are able to enter the networks, never quite accepted as an insider but respected as someone who can navigate a Chinese social mazeway.

In Chinese (as well as Vietnamese, Japanese and Korean) business and politics, *guanxi*—relationships or, more accurately, "who you know"—is paramount, and this is expressed through the complicated protocols. If you have to deal with the Chinese, you have to be quick to read the hierarchies, and where you fit. If, for example, they send only the driver to pick you up at the airport, you know you have an uphill battle ahead and that you will have to put in more effort into your first meeting, from the way you dress to what's printed on your business card.

Neri's description of "rough" Chinese negotiators is revealing. The Chinese do not consider smoking to be rude; in fact, many still think it's part of etiquette to offer cigarettes when you meet someone new. But ZTE, the company trying to clinch the deal, is a huge company, and I am sure there was some kind of briefing on dealing with Filipinos.

VIP

I'm even wondering now if they were intentionally rough and uncouth, to show they were calling the shots. Perhaps, too, they were that way, having seen how easily corruptible Filipino officials are with a little of wine, women, song (and golf).

I know Filipino businessmen who have had to deal with the Chinese, and they tell me the "bribes" are standard. Of course, no one calls it that. They simply build it into a deal, but here's the catch: the bribes are there to ensure efficiency, that the project gets going and is finished on time—or else.

I'm not condoning the Chinese way—it's still dishonest as far as I'm concerned. But it is important for Filipino government officials and business people to recognize how this corruption is "rationalized." Even more importantly, it is possible to say no, by showing you are incorruptible and laying out the cards from the beginning.

This is where I have learned from Westerners. When I'm sent by an American or European foundation to China to review proposals or evaluate a program, I'm always reminded that whenever possible, I must pay for everything myself. No free hotels, no free meals, not even a free taxi ride. The Americans will say, "I have to pay for my meal" and they literally mean "my," which upsets the Chinese. I tell my Chinese hosts, "Let me pay for all of us, this is company policy," which makes it more acceptable and sends the message that I'm avoiding any conflict of interest. This also allows me to assert myself. I can then proceed to "suggest" who sits next to whom, and request that no one smokes because it's not good for the lungs of the older people with us. (The Chinese are honored when you recognize their age.)

For as long as the Chinese have to deal with our corrupt officials, they will continue to treat us as *xiao ren*, small people or worse, cheap people. Let's equip our diplomats and government officials and business people with foreign languages and inter-cultural communication skills, but let's emphasize, too, the angle of personal integrity and self-respect so that we can negotiate on higher moral ground.

THEY SAID

Torn lover

"I am torn between my love for my son and my love for the President."

—House Speaker Jose de Venecia, after his son Joey implicated the First Gentleman in the controversial National Broadband Network deal

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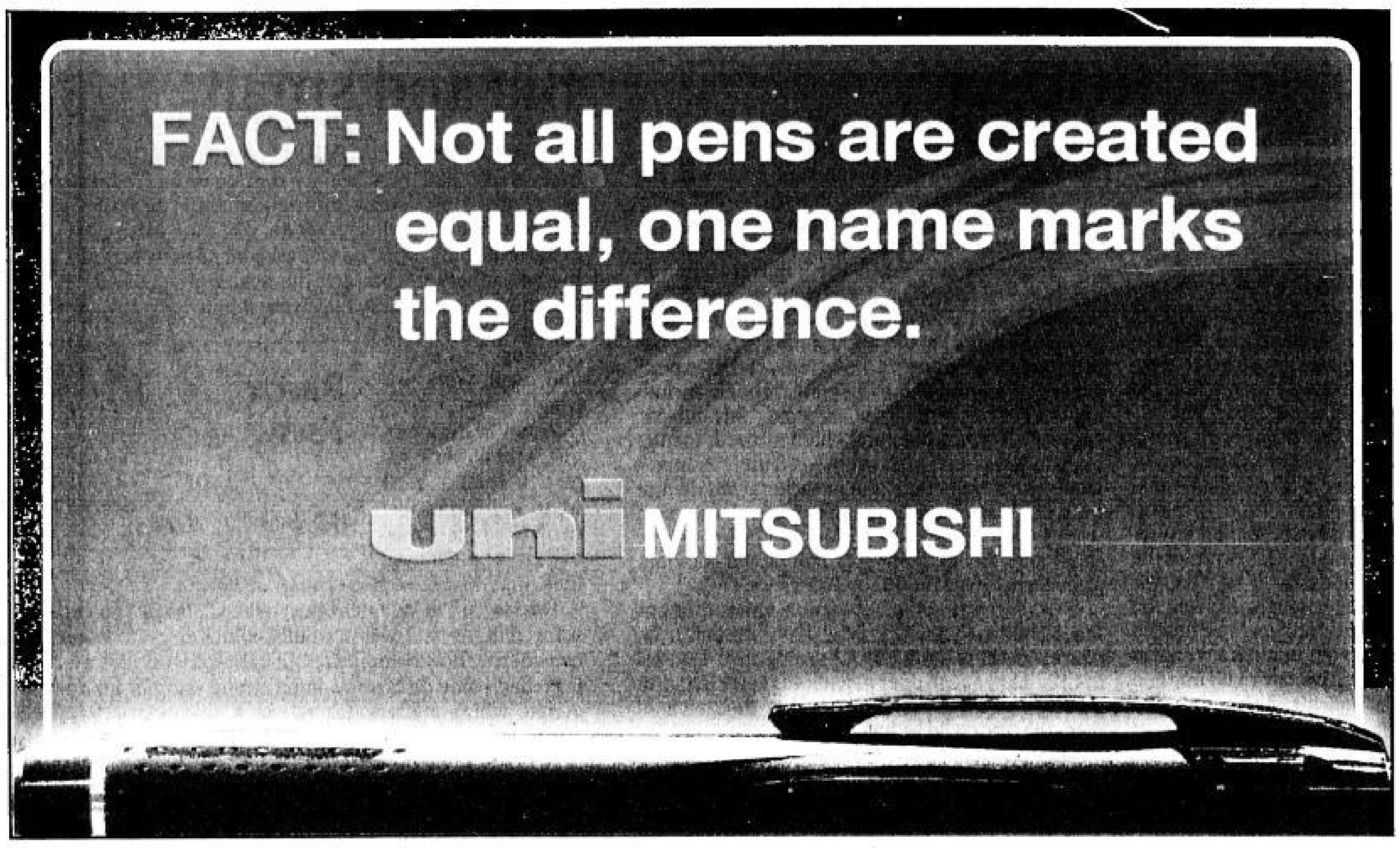

FACT: Not all pens are created equal, one name marks the difference.
uni MITSUBISHI

A plea to idealist Neri

WE REMEMBER CHED CHAIR ROmulo Neri as part of a generation of principled, young and idealistic men and women who sought reforms in Philippine society. A martyr to the cause, Edgar Jopson, was his friend and classmate.

We have dialogued and debated with Neri on critical economic issues. In some areas, our policy positions converged. We were on the same side in the advocacy for a competitive exchange rate. And we supported him in his stand against regulatory capture [a phenomenon in which a government regulatory agency which is supposed to be acting in the public interest becomes dominated by the vested interests of the incumbents in the industry that it oversees.—Wikipedia].

We have also disagreed with him on other issues. For example, we criticized his rosy growth projections, which lulled some sectors into thinking that all is well about the Philippine economy.

Apart from professional camaraderie, what binds us all "together is our conviction for truth and justice to prevail." It is in this light that we urge Neri not to turn his back on the search for truth. We urge him to be forthcoming about all that he knows regarding how the contract was sponsored, negotiated and signed.

—MICHAEL ALBA, LUZ ANIGAN, MANUEL BUENCAMINO, JESSICA REYES CANTOS, JENINA JOY CHAVEZ, SYLVIA ESTRADA-CLAUDIO, RAMON FERNAN III, MARGARITA F. GOMEZ, JOSE ERNESTO LEDESMA, FIDES LIM, JOSEPH Y. LIM, NEPOMUCENO MALALUAN, CRISTINA MORALES, RENE OFRENEO, RAFAEL PAREDES, RENE R. RAYA, RINA ROSALES, FILOMENO S. STA. ANA III, Action for Economic Reforms,
www.aer.ph

Code sharing normal industry practice

THIS REFERS TO THE LETTER OF ARNEL F. de Guzman (INQUIRER, 9/19/07) which contained wild accusations and distorted facts. Allow us to set the record straight:

1. There is no "monopolistic stranglehold" of the industry by Philippine Airlines or any other player. There is freewheeling competition in both domestic and international air services, and PAL is right there competing keenly with all types of carriers—low-cost, subsidized and protected state carriers, mega-airlines from developed countries, carriers belonging to global alliances, etc. You name it, we are taking them on.

2. PAL does not receive any tax break when it imports jet fuel. We pay the full rate, including taxes, like any normal private enterprise. Neither does PAL receive any government support, unlike our fellow flag carriers in Southeast Asia, which are all state-owned or backed.

3. Naia Centennial Terminal 2 is a government-owned and -operated facility. As such, how is it that PAL should have spent for its construction, as De Guzman protests? Governments build airport terminals and then lease them out to airlines. PAL is a mere tenant at Terminal 2, paying rent and other charges for its use. We don't have an exclusive right to it; the government is free to lease it to other tenants.

4. De Guzman portrays "code sharing" as a shady scheme hatched by PAL to fool travelers and earn easy money. This is not the case. Code sharing is a widespread industry practice in which two or more airlines offer a joint product. Virtually all major international carriers have code-sharing arrangements. In our own code-share pacts, PAL is an active partner. We don't just sit and collect commissions, as De Guzman alleges. We buy blocks of seats from the operating airline and then go out and sell these seats, supported by our own promotional efforts.

On certain routes, the roles are reversed. PAL is the operating carrier and the partner airline buys blocks of seats from us to sell. Examples are Manila-Jakarta and Manila-Saigon, where Garuda and Vietnam Airlines, respectively, code-share on PAL-operated flights. Indeed, the public is better served because you now have two airlines combining their sales muscle to develop markets—which could mean lower fares or a wider range of travel packages for customers. Code sharing is therefore, a "win-win" situation for all.

—ROLANDO G. ESTABILLC
vice presiden,
Corporate Communications,
Philippine Airlines, Makati City

Another Erap joke

THIS SOUNDS LIKE ANOTHER ESTRADA joke: "Pardon me, but I will not admit guilt. I will not admit guilt, therefore I am not guilty. If I am not guilty you will have to pardon me, absolutely."

What an inglorious end to a tragi-comic drama that was the Estrada presidency.

Another option will be to appeal his case all the way to the Supreme Court. If Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo does not "cattle prod" the justices, the case could take five to 10 years to resolve, by which time she herself may be on trial, too.

Estrada's lawyers should file the appeal now. It would be the honorable thing to do, even if he passes away before his case is resolved. But, maybe, Erap has not heard of this phrase before: "The honorable thing to do."

The speed with which the Estrada plunder case was resolved shows how "justice" can be meted out in the Philippines. The Arroyo administration had to legitimize the Edsa II power grab. Imelda Marcos is laughing so hard. So is Fidel V. Ramos. Tita Cory is not amused though she is mad, and there will be hell to pay.

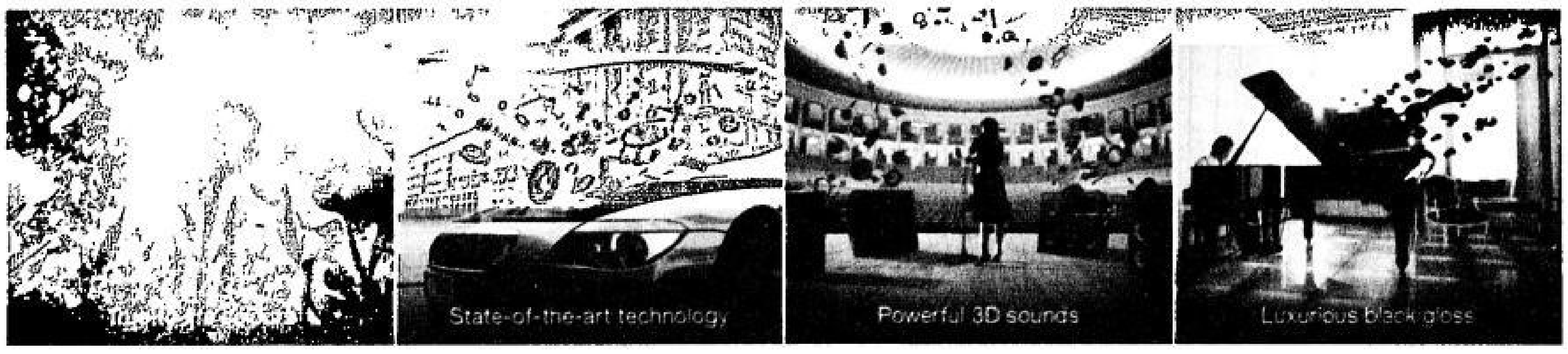
—ALFONSO DEMAYO,
hombresiete@yahoo.ca

Lost 'Lean's List'

LEAN ALEJANDRO WAS ALSO A FAN OF THE original Star Wars Trilogy. ("Lean Alejandro's 'precioussss' secret," INQUIRER, 9/22/07) I also remember him giving me a list of books that he said were "must-read," and yes, it included Tolkien's and Trotsky's.

I was with his University Student Council, Batch '83-'84, at the state university. I regret the fact that I actually threw out that list because I was afraid it would be taken against me in case of a crackdown on student activists after the Ninoy Aquino assassination in 1983.

—MARILOU SANTOS-SYJUECO,
c/o De La Salle University,
2401 Taft Avenue, Manila



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Security Council urges junta to exercise restraint

UNITED NATIONS—AFTER INITIAL resistance from China, the UN Security Council issued a statement of concern about the violent crackdown on Buddhist monks in Burma (Myanmar) and urged the military regime to let in a special envoy.

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon's special envoy, Ibrahim Gambari, was expected to leave for the region on Wednesday night after briefing the emergency council meeting in the afternoon on the violence.

Council diplomats said China, which has close economic ties to Burma, did not want any document issued after the closed-door session but relented and agreed to a brief statement, which was read to reporters by France's UN Ambassador Jean-Maurice Ripert.

"Members of the council have expressed their concern vis-a-vis the situation, and have urged restraint, especially from the government of Myanmar," the statement said.

The junta's forces opened fire on antigovernment protesters in the center of the country's largest city, Rangoon (Yangon). One person was reported killed but dissident groups claimed the casualty count was higher, with as many as five people killed, including monks.

UN's Ban called on the Burmese government to exercise its "utmost restraint" and later met one-on-one with Burmese Foreign Minister Nyan Win. On the way to the meeting, a reporter asked about the five reported deaths and Win replied: "You asked if five people died and we said no."

Indonesia's new UN Ambassador Marty Natalegawa said Burma was not on the agenda of a ministerial meeting on Thursday of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean), on the sidelines of the high-level UN General Assembly session, but the violence was likely to be taken up. Burma is a member of the 10-nation group.

Outrageous

The United States and the council's European Union members—Britain, France, Italy and Belgium—had condemned the attacks and called on the country's military rulers to stop the violence and open a dialogue with prodemocracy leaders.

"What's going on in Burma is outrageous," US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said after a luncheon meeting of ministers from the eight major industrialized nations. "The regime needs to stop using violence against peaceful people and get to a dialogue so that they can have reconciliation."

China and Russia contend that the situation in Burma is an internal affair and doesn't threaten international peace and security—as required for Security Council action—so getting the two nations to agree to the press statement was considered a positive step.

"It is a huge breakthrough," said Yvonne Terlingen, UN representative for Amnesty International. "It is unprecedented that the Security Council made a statement about human rights in Burma—and that is very important."

Restoring stability

China's UN Ambassador Wang Guangya told reporters that the most important thing was to see that Burmese authorities "restore stability," and to get Gambari into the country as soon as possible.

"China is a neighbor to Myanmar, so we more than anyone else wish to see that Myanmar will achieve stability, national reconciliation, and we want to see them making progress on the road of democratization," Wang said. "We hope that the government and people there could just sort out their differences."

Wang said that he believed sanctions would not be helpful, stressing that "these problems now at this stage (do) not constitute a threat to international and regional peace and stability."

Russia's UN Ambassador Vitaly Churkin supported the council statement. "We are concerned about the developments and regret the loss of life," he said.

Rare double veto

In January, China and Russia cast a rare double veto on a US-sponsored resolution calling on Burma's military government to release all political prisoners, speed up progress toward democracy and stop attacks against ethnic minorities.

US Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad said the United States supported the statement and Gambari's mission. Asked about China's reaction, he said: "We have called on them to use their influence, and we hope that they will." *AP*

Burma junta intensifies crackdown; monks defiant

From page A1

city remaining defiant against the regime.

Shortly before dawn, security forces raided two Buddhist monasteries, beating up and hauling away more than 70 monks after a day of violent confrontation with monk-led protesters that drew international appeals for restraint.

Security forces in the isolated Southeast Asian nation fired at protesters for the first time on Wednesday in street protests that have brewed over the past month into the biggest rallies against Burma's military rulers since 1988. At least one man was killed and others wounded in chaotic clashes in Rangoon.

The protesters, led by thousands of monks in cinnamon robes, have been demanding more democratic freedoms, the release of political activists and economic reforms in the impoverished nation.

Early Thursday, security forces arrested Myint Thein, the spokesperson for opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi's political party. An executive of her National League for Democracy, Hla Pe, was also arrested.

Soldiers at Suu Kyi's home

An Asian diplomat, who spoke on condition of anonymity, told The Associated Press on Thursday that Nobel Peace Prize laureate Suu Kyi remained at her Rangoon residence where she has been detained for 12 years.

Rumors had circulated that she had been taken away to Rangoon's notorious Insein prison.

The diplomat said that the junta had deployed more security forces around Suu Kyi's house and on the road leading to her residential compound and that more than 100 soldiers were now inside the compound.

"The sign of increasing security forces make me confident that she is still there," the diplomat said. He said others had told him that they had seen the diminutive opposition leader in her home on Wednesday night.

The diplomat also said flyers were spreading around the nation's largest city of Rangoon on Thursday, encouraging more civilians to join the protests.

Several monasteries that are considered hotbeds of the prodemocracy movement were raided by security forces before dawn in an apparent attempt to prevent the demonstrations spearheaded by the Buddhist clergy.

Bloodstains

A monk at the Ngwe Kyar Yan monastery, pointing to bloodstains on the concrete floor, said a number of monks had been beaten and at least 70 of its 150 monks had been taken away in vehicles. Shots were fired in the air during the chaotic raid.

A female lay disciple said a number of monks were also arrested at the Moe Gaung monastery which was being guarded by soldiers. Both monasteries are located in Rangoon's northern suburbs.

Internet images

Dramatic images of Wednesday's protests, many transmitted by dissidents using cell phones and the Internet, riveted world attention on the escalating face-off between the military regime and its opponents.

The United States called on Burma's military leaders on Thursday to open a dialogue with peaceful protesters in the reclusive Asian nation and urged China to do what it could to prevent further bloodshed.

"We all need to agree on the fact that the Burmese government has got to stop thinking that this can be solved by police and military, and start thinking about the need for genuine reconciliation with the broad spectrum of political activists in the country," said US Assistant Secretary of State Christopher Hill in Beijing.

Rocks and bottles

On Wednesday, protesters in Rangoon pelted police with bottles and rocks. Onlookers helped monks escape arrest by bundling them into taxis and other vehicles and shouting "Go, go, go, run!"

The government said one man was killed when police opened fire during the ninth consecutive day of demonstrations, but dissidents outside Burma reported receiving news of up to eight deaths.

Some reports said the dead included monks, who are widely revered in Burma, and the emergence of such martyr figures could stoke public anger against the regime and escalate the violence.

As the stiffest challenge to the generals in two decades, the crisis that began on Aug. 19 with protests over a fuel price hike has drawn increasing international pressure on the isolated regime.

Biggest challenge

The Burmese government said security forces fired on Wednesday when the crowd that included what it called "so-called monks" refused to disperse at the Sule Pagoda and tried to grab weapons from officers. It said police used "minimum force."

The junta statement said a 30-year-old man was killed by a police bullet. It said two men and a woman also were hurt when police fired, but did not specify their injuries.

Exiled Burmese journalists and democracy activists released reports of higher death tolls, but the accounts could not be independently confirmed.

The protests are the biggest challenge to the junta since a failed 1988 democracy uprising. In that crisis, soldiers shot into crowds of peaceful demonstrators, killing some 3,000 people. *Reports from AFP and AP*

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Neri faces more grilling by senators

From page A1

Neri's information does not involve national security, military secrets or diplomatic relations, they may compel Neri to answer their questions. Otherwise, he would be cited in contempt and placed under arrest.

"There are still a lot of questions. The direct link to the President is not yet on record," Cayetano said.

"But the indirect link to the President ... is already there," he said, referring to the fact that Ms Arroyo had approved a loan deal with China for the NBN project despite her earlier insistence at Neda meetings that the project should be a build-operate-transfer scheme that would not require a government loan.

Cayetano also said the inquiry had linked the President's husband, Jose Miguel Arroyo, as well as Commission on Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. and Transportation and Communications Secretary Leandro Mendoza to the controversial deal.

The joint inquiry may hold its fifth and last hearing on the matter on Thursday.

Andaya in senators' session

Neri was among those who testified at Wednesday's 10-hour Senate hearing, which was followed by an executive session called to address his basis for invoking executive privilege.

The senators excused Neri after learning that he was having chills and running a fever.

Both opposition and administration senators continued to question Neri's basis for invoking executive privilege in Wednesday's proceedings.

"The stink is now higher than the source," said Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. "We're disappointed with Neri's decision, as well as his choice of Budget Secretary Rolando Andaya as his counsel."

Andaya was said to have managed to get into the senators' executive session by introducing himself as Neri's counsel—an arrangement that, a number of senators said, was unacceptable because Andaya was a Cabinet official.

But a Malacañang insider—who could not speak on the record because he had no authority to do so—claimed that it was Neri himself who had picked Andaya, a graduate of the Ateneo Law School.

"Andaya was actually reluctant, but Neri said he needed legal counsel and he was comfortable working with a Cabinet colleague and his successor at the budget department," said the Palace insider.

Straight Cabinet man

"We're forming a consensus. We have suspended judgment on whether the claim of executive privilege is valid. But at the appropriate time, we will compel him. We're acting very cautiously on this," Cayetano said.

While Neri's testimony—that Abalos offered him P200 million to approve the deal in favor of ZTE—could convict the Comelec chair of bribery, "so far he would not implicate the President," Cayetano said. "That's my interpretation."

Senate President Manuel Villar said Neri invoked executive privilege even during the executive session.

"But I still think he is a straight Cabinet member. In fact, if there is no executive privilege, he would have said more," Villar said, noting that Neri consistently clammed up whenever he was asked if someone "higher" than he had an interest in the project.

Villar said Neri would not have invoked executive privilege to evade questions if there was nothing controversial in his conversations with Ms Arroyo about the ZTE proposal.

"It's not yet finished," he said.

Sen. Francis Pangilinan warned that the senators would not go easy on Neri, now chair of the Commission on Higher Education, at the next hearing.

"Executive privilege cannot be used to cover up for corruption," Pangilinan said.

He said Neri's invoking executive privilege was contrary to the Supreme Court decision stating that it could only be invoked if the information would affect national interest.

To the high court

Malacañang, however, was fully supportive of Neri's action.

According to Sergio Apostol, Ms Arroyo's chief legal counsel, Neri "cannot be compelled" to testify on matters spoken in confidence between the President and members of her Cabinet.

And there is "no need to cite a basis," Apostol told reporters.

He said Malacañang was expecting the matter to be elevated to the Supreme Court if push came to shove.

Apostol, a former trial court judge, said the ambiguity in the claim of executive privilege arose from the decision handed down by the high court in resolving "Senate of the Philippines v Eduardo R. Ermita" in February 2006.

The case stemmed from Ms Arroyo's Executive Order No. 464 barring the appearance of executive officials in Senate inquiries without her consent.

Apostol said there was no "clear-cut" resolution in the high court's decision.

Told that invoking executive privilege would serve to show that Neri and the President were hiding something from the public, Apostol said: "Nothing is being hidden. Neri is saying that the President has no knowledge of and is not privy to the [alleged bribery]."

Apostol refused to comment when reminded that Neri told the Senate inquiry on Wednesday that he had informed Ms Arroyo of Abalos' purported bribery attempt.

Room for interpretation

Sen. Loren Legarda said being evasive or refusing to answer questions only left more room for interpretations of events, such as why the President continued to support the NBN project despite having been told of Abalos' supposed bribe offer.

Legarda added that congressional inquiries were "not meant to pin the blame on anyone."

Sen. Richard Gordon said Neri's invoking of executive privilege was out of place and invalid: "It only holds in a question hour. There are no national security considerations, no problems on diplomatic relations with other countries. And the topic is not a state secret that is part of negotiations."

Gordon said Cayetano "should never have allowed" Neri to invoke executive privilege.

Toxic

"He (Cayetano) was wrong," Gordon said, adding:

"What I believe is weighty in this hearing is Abalos' bribe offer to Neri, which could mean that he made bribe offers to other people."

Pimentel agreed: "I think Abalos [made a bribe offer] to other people aside from Neri and [Jose] de Venecia [III]."

Gordon also said the ZTE contract "should not have been suspended [as the President has done], but junked."

"The contract is poisoned altogether; it is toxic already," he said.

Militants to Neri: Speak up or step down

By Jerome Aning

"SPEAK UP OR STEP DOWN" was the choice presented by militant groups yesterday to Commission on Higher Education Chair Romulo Neri, whom they challenged to redeem himself by revealing all he knew about President Macapagal-Arroyo's involvement in the National Broadband Network (NBN) deal.

The Freedom from Debt Coalition (FDC) commended Neri for disclosing the alleged P200-million bribe offer allegedly made by Commission on Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr., but assailed him for invoking executive privilege to avoid having to answer questions regarding the President.

"His testimony only proved that he has chosen one group to protect and another to ditch. We still hope that he can muster the necessary strength and courage to reveal everything he knows about this mess. We're keeping the faith," said FDC secretary general Milo Tanchuling.

According to Tanchuling, Neri tried to be brave during Wednesday's Senate hearing, but was "not brave and bold enough."

The urban poor group Maypagasa, through its spokesperson Roel Garcia, aired a similar view, adding that Neri "should tell all because we feel he is holding crucial information that will really get us to the bottom of the scandal, which is Malacañang."

The Confederation for Unity, Advancement and Recognition of Government Employees (Courage) led a protest rally at the Senate yesterday to register its opposition to the NBN contract won by China's ZTE Corp.

Said Courage president Ferdinand Gaite: "Corruption victimizes the people, and thus cannot be a part of executive privilege. Neri has the supreme duty to reveal all information and his conversations with Ms Arroyo on ZTE. Public rights and interests should be placed higher than his loyalty to Ms Arroyo."

Gaite ticked off the corruption scandals that had rocked the Arroyo administration, including the P1-billion scam involving the Diosdado Macapagal Boulevard and the P728-million fertilizer scam.

"The stakes and stash are becoming higher. This government has no shame," he said.

The FDC reiterated its call for the immediate resignation of all public officials implicated in the NBN scandal, "for adhering to, taking part in, or having knowledge of this illegitimate deal."

I'm not Abalos' . . .

From page A1

Aquilino Pimentel raised in the Senate investigation of the National Broadband Network (NBN) deal yesterday said the allegation not only hurt her but also left her young daughter too embarrassed to hold her next birthday party.

In a phone interview with the INQUIRER, Evelyn Catherine Silagon denied any romantic link with Abalos, her former boss at the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) before he was appointed to the Comelec in 2002.

Show courtesy to woman

"I have no relationship with Chairman Abalos. He is not the father of my daughter. It's their burden to prove," Silagon said.

The 52-year-old former free lance public relations practitioner said Pimentel had been insensitive and unkind.

"He was maligning a woman. He should show courtesy to a woman," she said.

At the hearing on Wednesday where Abalos was accused of taking a kickback and offering bribes to facilitate the NBN project, Pimentel alluded to circulating text messages about Abalos and Silagon.

The texts said Abalos had an 8-year-old daughter with Silagon and had given her four cars and three condominium units at Prime Towers at Rockwell in Makati City.

Mrs. Abalos 'hurting'

Abalos yesterday said his wife was hurting not only because of the bribery and kickback charges hurled against him, but also because of the text messages saying that he had a mistress.

"She's hurt," Abalos told reporters at the House of Representatives where he attended a budget hearing for the Comelec. "Perhaps she's just not showing it because of the situation I am in right now."

Abalos, 72, said the allegations about Silagon were unfair.

He said he had a "faint recollection" of her.

"I think she used to be among you," he said in Filipino, addressing the reporters gathered around him. "I came to know her when I was MMDA chairman."

Daughter doesn't want party

Silagon called the texts "brutal" and "unfounded."

She said the messages bothered and embarrassed her daughter, who asked her to cancel her ninth birthday party on Oct. 4.

"I don't know if the senator realizes what he has done. He should not drag people into this," Silagon said.

She said she worked for Abalos as his media liaison—for "less than a year"—at the MMDA.

She said Abalos was a good boss who was friendly to everyone.

A single parent, Silagon said she now organized seminars and took care of her daughter, who has asthma.

She said Abalos did not give her anything.

"It's easy to prove that. They can get documents from Makati City and the LTO [Land Transportation Office] to prove it," she said.

In a separate press statement, she said she came out to protect the interest of her daughter.

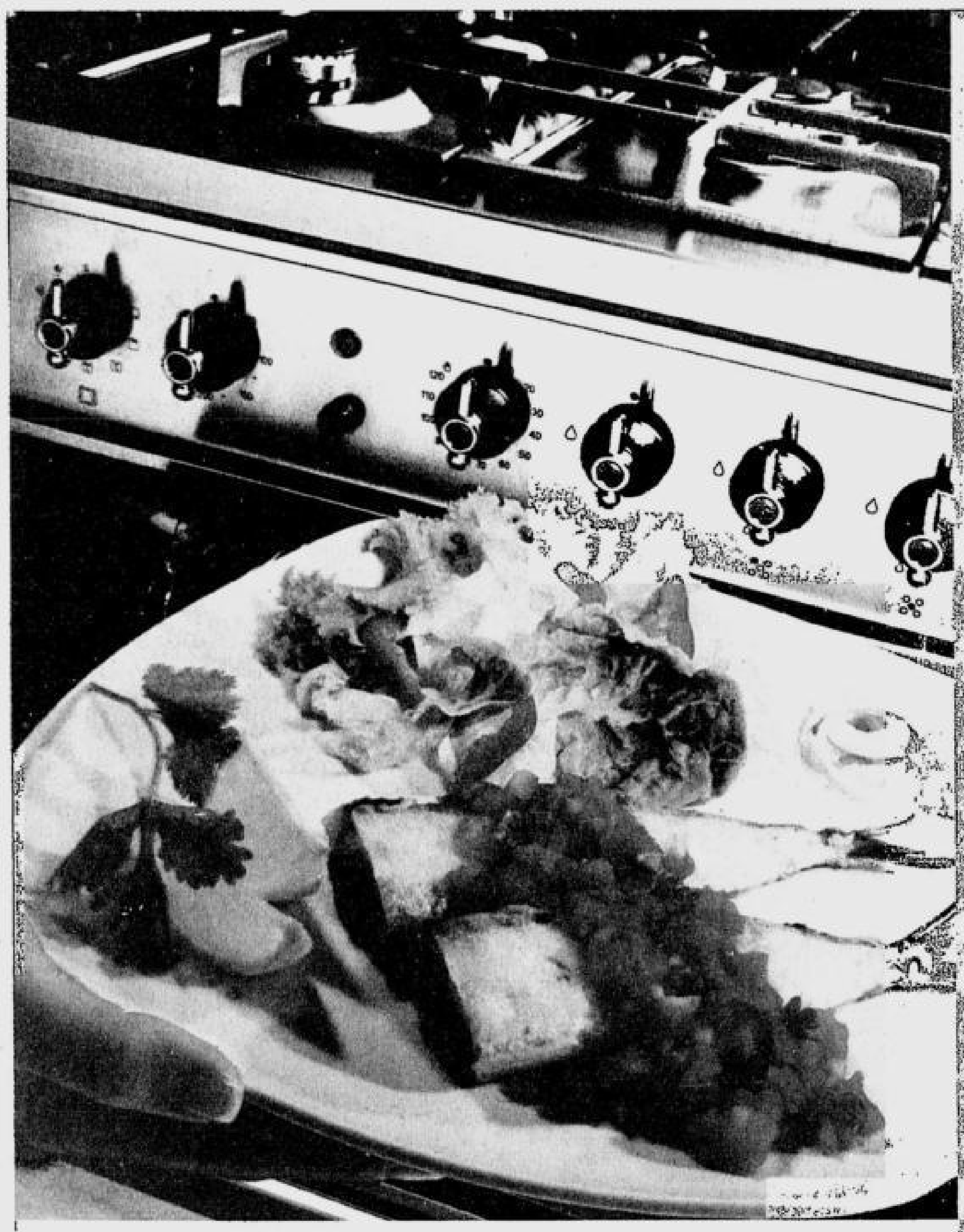
'I have my own mind'

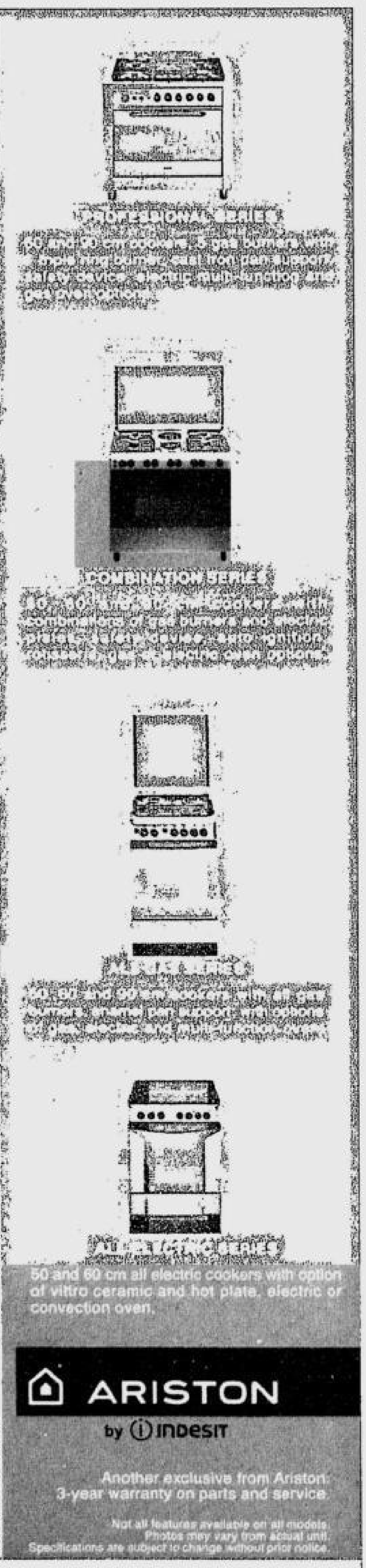
She said Pimentel should have been "sensitive enough not to drag the name of a private citizen who pays taxes to sustain his pork barrel."

She told the INQUIRER she did not expect an apology from the senator.

"I just want him to stop it show a little respect," she said.

She denied Abalos' camp had asked her to come out and deny the allegations. "I have my own mind," she said. *With a report from Christian V. Esguerra*





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Pact puts end to hacienda bloodshed

By Carla P. Gomez
Inquirer Visayas

LA CASTELLANA, NEGROS OCCIDENTAL—THE signing of an agreement between two farmer groups here put an end to the 11-year bloody conflict at the Hacienda Velez Malaga.

The 103 beneficiaries allied with Task Force Mapalad and the 199 identified with landowner Roberto Cuenca have had violent clashes in the past, resulting in the death of three TFM members.

On Thursday, Romeo Caram, representing the Hacienda Malaga Multi-Purpose Cooperative that is allied with Cuenca, signed a memorandum of agreement for the equitable and acceptable division of the farm among the beneficiaries at the La Castellana town hall.

Healing process

Agrarian Reform Secretary Nasser Pangandaman, Mayor Alberto Nicor and landowner Roberto Cuenca witnessed the signing.

Pangandaman, Cuenca and Gregorio Paclibar of the Hacienda Velez Malaga Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Organization (Havemarbo), which is allied with the Task Force Malaga, had signed the same agreement last Saturday.

Sugar Regulatory Administrator Rafael Coscolluela and Fr. Rolex Nueva, who had helped broker the settlement, said the signing of the MOA signaled the start of a long healing process.

"It is sad that what happened in the past at Velez Malaga has created widespread mistrust. I hope that starting now the healing process will begin," Nueva said.

He also thanked Cuenca for helping in the process and called on the beneficiaries not to waste the opportunity given to them and owners of the land.

It's over

"For the last 11 years, Hacienda Velez-Malaga has been out in the limelight as a place where chaos reigns. That is finally over," Cuenca said.

Cuenca said he and his family were turning over the land they had "nurtured and developed to the care of people whom they hope will also cultivate and love the land that we have all fought for."

SOME farmers count the cash they received from the Cuenca family during a compromise agreement that raises hope for peace over the hacienda. CARLA P. GOMEZ

The MOA, among others, included a land swap among the two farmer groups that allows those allied with Cuenca to remain in the main section of the farm.

Cuenca also turned over P437,000 in cash to the TFM camp for the cultivation of 43.71 hectares that technically belonged to Havemarbo but was given to the cooperative farmer-members. In exchange, Havemarbo members received an equivalent area in another lot.

All parties also agreed to withdraw all agrarian related cases filed, excluding criminal cases, and execute the necessary agreements for submission to the courts.

However, the TFM members did not attend the town hall signing since Paclibar had already signed the MOA on Saturday, said Lani Factor, TFM deputy national coordinator.

The TFM members welcome the signing of the MOA but chose to stay at the farm for Mass where they offered their victory to their slain fellow beneficiaries, Factor said.

Separate rites

"It would have been so much better with everybody here celebrating the occasion, it would have spelled a very real step towards reconciliation and healing. But I guess, the TFM members wanted to celebrate on their own, let's not place any malice or express any disappointment, let's just respect that," Coscolluela said at the signing rites.

The total land area covered by CARP under the MOA is 477 hectares, with 94 hectares going to the TFM group and the rest to the members of the cooperative, TFM deputy national coordinator Lani Factor said.

Van yields ₱1.2B in shabu after crash on highway

CALAMBA CITY—POLICE FOUND P1.2 billion worth of shabu inside a crashed van at the South Luzon Expressway in Barangay Prinza here yesterday.

Chief Supt. Perfecto Palad, Traffic Management Group director, said the drug was stashed inside thick plastic bags which were in 27 small sacks.

The sacks also contained several bottles of air freshener.

"The owners of this contraband will use these bottles of air freshener as front should they be held for inspection," Palad told reporters.

Unusual packing

Citing its unusual packaging, Supt. Joy Cabal, chief of the police Crime Laboratory, said the illegal drug was probably from outside the country as it was placed inside vacuum-packed, double heat-sealed plastic bags.

"Illegal drugs produced locally are not typically placed in this kind of first-class plastic bags," Cabal said.

Senior Supt. Mark Edison Belarma, chief of the police Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) in Calabarzon, said the illegal drug was apparently shipped from China and dropped in Barangay Butuan in San Fernando, Masbate.

Dropoff point

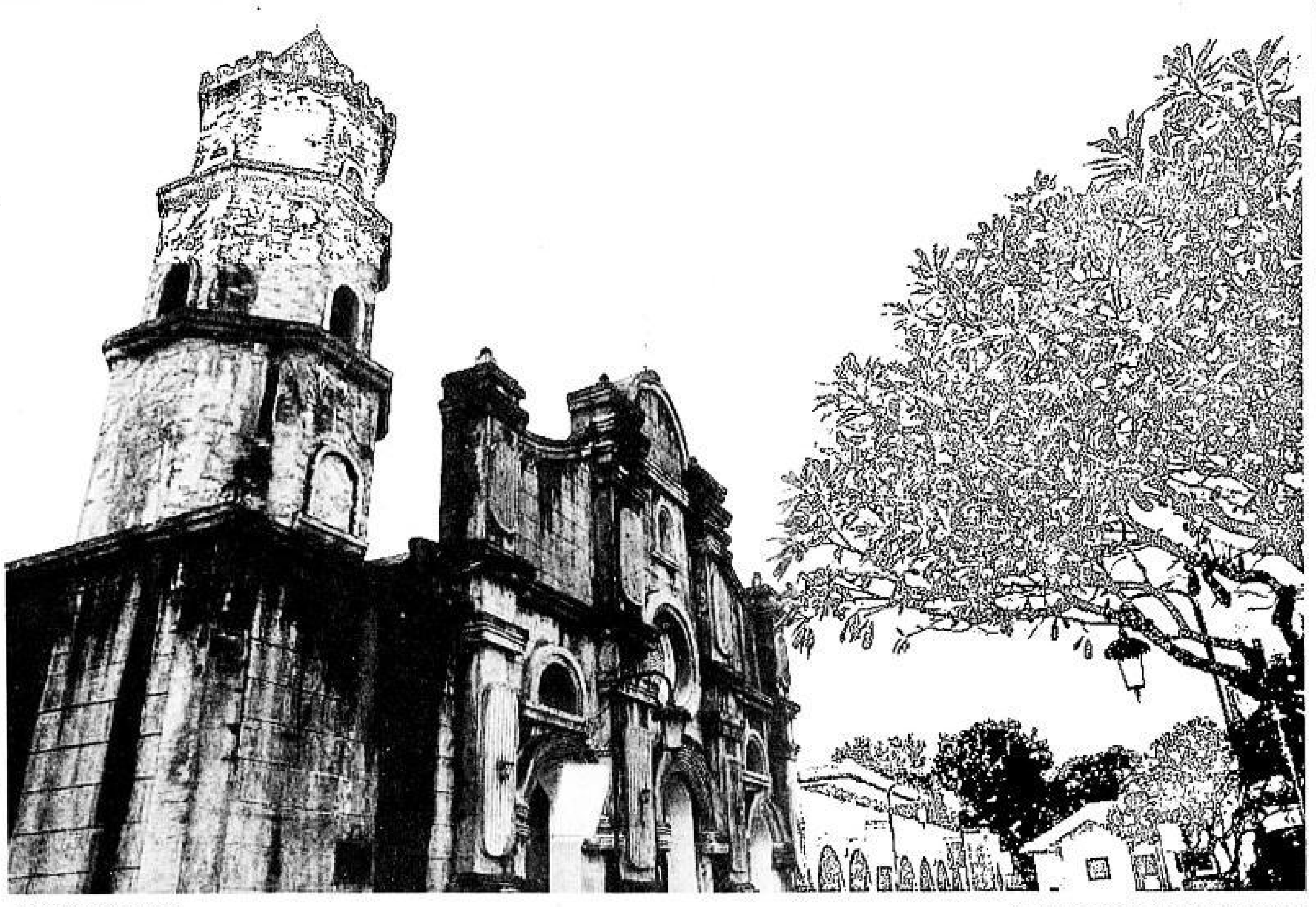
Belarma said the area has been known as one of the "dropoff points" of local Chinese drug syndicates which import shabu directly from China.

He also disclosed that the vehicle where the illegal drugs were recovered was registered to a certain Dante Litada who is a resident of San Fernando.

Palad said police, who were manning a police checkpoint in Barangay Turbina, Calamba City, were alerted after they saw a green Toyota Hi-Ace van (WHE 567) racing against a red Toyota Revo near the entrance of SLEx at around 10:30 a.m.

"Instead of slowing down at the checkpoint, the two vehicles were running at high speed. That prompted the TMG operatives to tail them," Palad said.

He said before his men could catch up with the vehicles, the Hi-Ace turned on its side near a bridge in Barangay Prinza. *Marlon Ramos, Inquirer Southern Luzon*


SECOND LIFE TONETTE OREJAS/INQUIRER CENTRAL LUZON
A replica of the historic Barasoain Church in Malolos, Bulacan is among installations in the Expo Pilipino that got a new lease on life with a P40-million fund.

Wedding cake commands Baguio attention

By Desiree Caluza
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BAGUIO CITY—A CAKE BIG ENOUGH for 56 couples and their guests.

That was the sweet treat for the 56 couples who shared slices of a 16-foot, four-layer chocolate cake after a mass wedding ceremony at the SM City Baguio here on Thursday.

The cake, arguably the largest and tallest baked in the country, was presented here as part of an annual tourism festival held by the Hotel and Restaurant Association of Baguio (HRAB) to attract visitors to the summer capital.

Chefs' parade

Its creation was also a highlight of the celebration of the 25th anniversary of the "Chefs on Parade," a culinary festival participated in by professional and amateur chefs, hotel owners, restaurateurs and students.

The couples, who lined up in four designated stations, led the slicing of the giant cake. Cake slices were also distributed to mall goers.

The oldest couple was German Rambuyong, 74, and his partner, Candida, 55.

"What we had undertaken was not meant to beat any world record. [We wanted to show] that we were capable of boosting the city's tourism industry," Anthony de Leon, HRAB president, said in an earlier press forum.

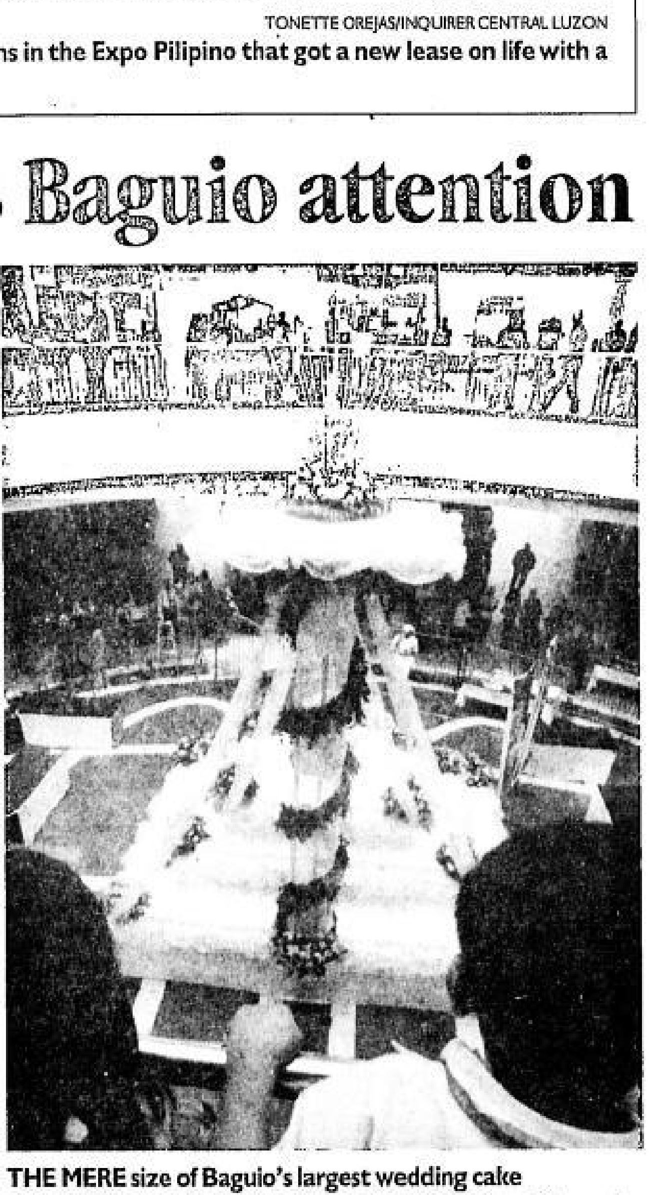
He said the three-ton cake could feed about 15,000 people. It was covered with white sponge icing and decorated with fresh flowers and pieces of strawberries and grapes and slices of oranges and apples.

Hard work

Noel Ramos, food and beverage manager of the Baguio Country Club, said the 20 bakers and 40 chefs started baking pieces of the giant cake on Sunday.

The small cakes were placed on 630 trays and were stored in the chilling area of BCC. These were taken to the mall's atrium on Thursday morning where it was assembled and decorated.

Art Nucaza, BCC's pastry chef who led the creation of the "King Carrot Cake" in La Trinidad, Benguet, in 2001 and the longest raisin bread presented in Baguio City in 2004, led the preparation of the giant wedding cake this year.


THE MERE size of Baguio's largest wedding cake commands attention from mall goers. More than 50 couples partook of the cake. ELMER KRISTIAN DAUIGOY/INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON

Civil society backs Panlilio fight to keep quarry control

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Some 300 leaders of civil society groups in Pampanga have asked Gov. Eddie Panlilio to veto an ordinance that changes the ways by which the province's multimillion peso quarry industry is managed and the revenues from it are shared.

Leaders of the Kapampangan Marangal, Kapampangan Coalition, Conscience, Abak na Balen, Pampanga Association of Non-Government Organizations, Pampanga Anti-Gambling Council, Advocacy for the Development of Central Luzon and Save Pampanga Movement clamored for the rejection of Ordinance 176 (formerly 172) by submitting position papers or expressing their stand during a consultation held at the St. Jude Parish here on Tuesday night.

They cited lack of consultations as well as violations of several provisions of the Local Government Code, Mining Act of 1991 and Small-Mining Act on why they sought the junking of Ordinance 176.

Unanimous vote

The provincial board, by a vote of 10-0, passed the ordinance on Sept. 21.

The Pampanga Mayors' League filed the measure on Aug. 29.

Corazon Gamboa-Ortiz, 65, sent Panlilio a letter by e-mail, asking him to "please, please don't allow them to [manage the quarry industry]."

"The main reason I am writing you is to ask you to veto [the ordinance] that would decrease the revenues of the province," said Ortiz, a Kapampangan who resides now in Roxas City.

After hearing the stand of various groups, Panlilio announced: "*Salangsangan taya pu.* (We will oppose the ordinance). Should they override it, we will go to court."

He thanked them for their "solidarity in our crusade for good governance and good citizenship," assuring that "though our ship is tossed by big waves, ours is going forward and in the right direction."

Panlilio said his administration has removed kickbacks for public projects, generated confidence and support of the capitol's department heads and, among other things, eliminated irregularities in the collection of quarry fee and tax. *Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon*

Veggie smuggling looms, gov warns

LA TRINIDAD, BENGUET—GOV. NESTOR Fongwan warned of the possible entry into the country of smuggled vegetables within the next three months as unscrupulous traders might take advantage of the expected peak in vegetable demand.

Fongwan urged the government in a media forum here on Tuesday to form an anti-smuggling task force for vegetables that would help curb the illegal importation that becomes rampant during the holidays.

He said that his office had received reports about the presence of imported Chinese carrots in some markets in Metro Manila that has caused panic among the province's farmers and industry leaders.

"We are at a loss as to the source of the carrots but it is highly possible they came from China since it is harvest time for carrots there," he said.

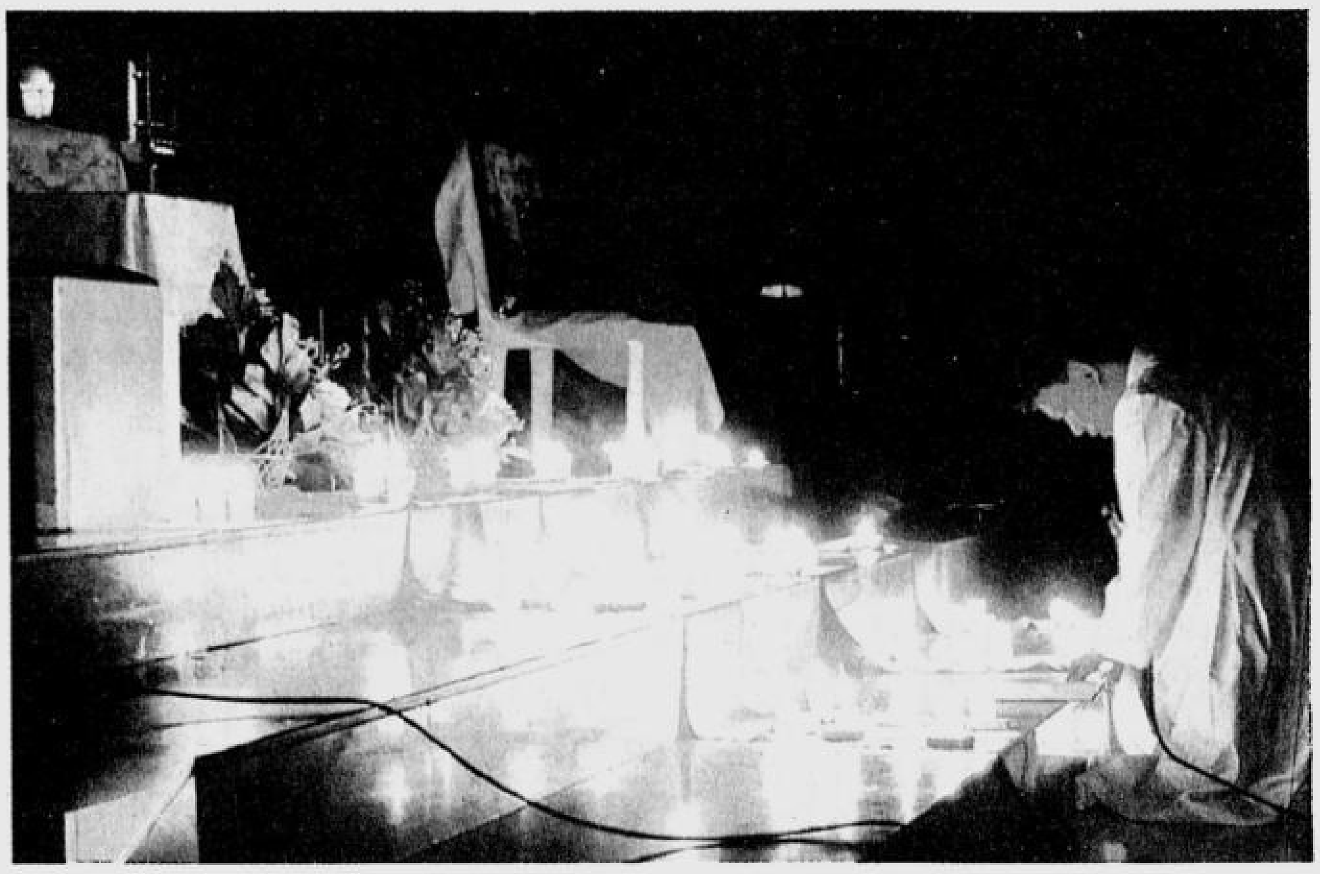
Fongwan suspected the carrots were smuggled after the Bureau of Customs and the Bureau of Plant Industry told him that no import permits for Chinese carrots had been issued.

He said illegal importers could be in cahoots with the operators of bonded warehouses who possibly served as conduits of imported vegetables.

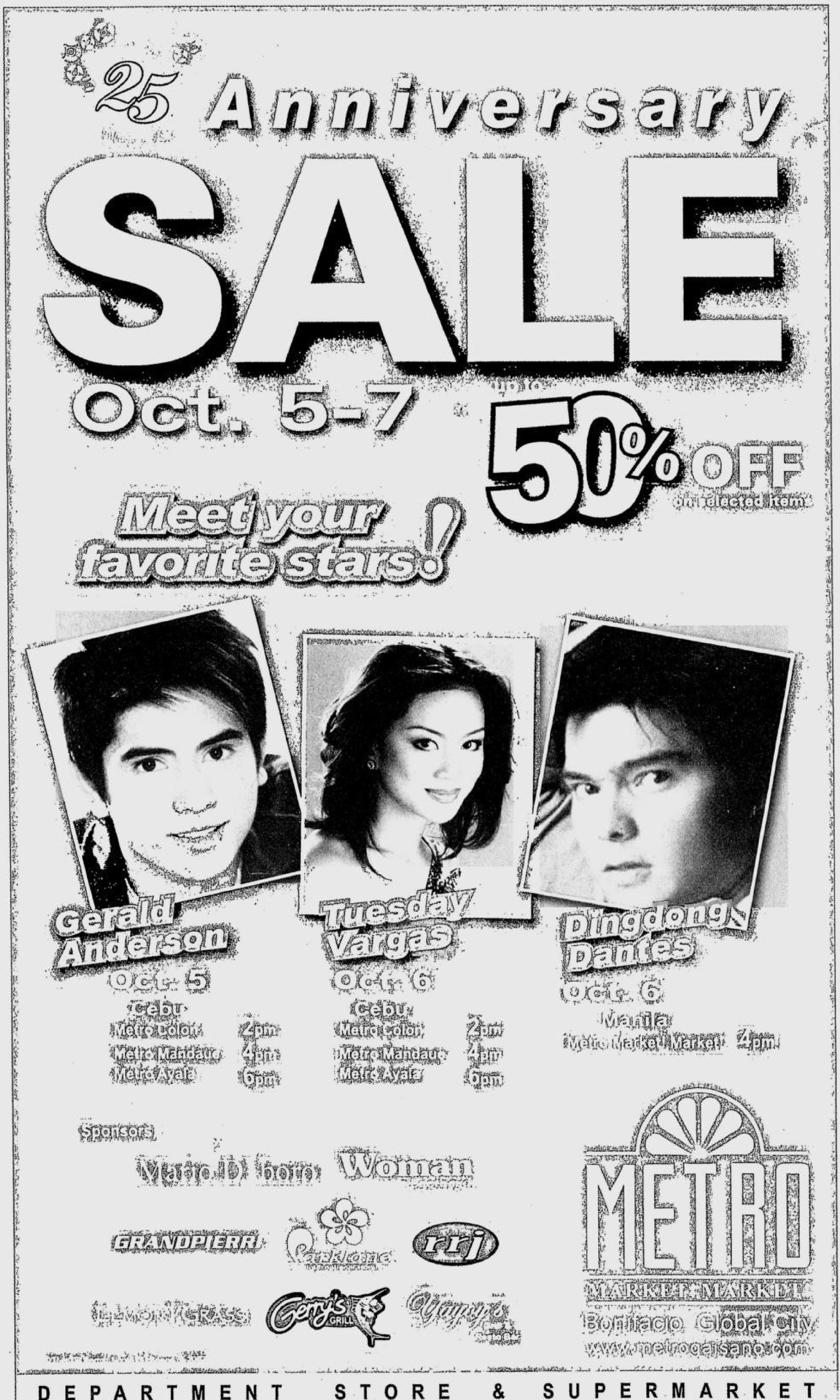
The province's farmers complained recently about the sudden dip in the price of carrots sold by wholesale at the vegetable trading post here.

They said the price decrease was abnormal considering the volume of supply.

Fongwan said the farmers' complaint validated the information that foreign carrots had made their way into the domestic market. *Delmar Cariño, Inquirer Northern Luzon*



CANDLES are lit for soldiers slain in Sulu. The continuing war between government troops and rebels is turning more and more women into widows, grieving mothers or sisters. JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN



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Widowhood gets new meaning in Pampanga group

By Tonette Orejas
Inquirer Central Luzon

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—FOR AT LEAST 30 women here, life did not end when their husbands died.

Widowhood, as how they lived it, is more than grieving or sulking. By the way they lead their lives they lent the word widow a new meaning.

"Women of integrity, devotion, optimism, wisdom and strength (Widows)" was how their children called them during the Sept. 15 launch of the group "Balu" at the Sto. Niño Parish here.

That redefinition was what was etched on trophies given to the 30 women in the tribute timed for the feast day of Our Lady of Sorrows or the grieving Blessed Virgin Mary.

Balu, a Kapampangan word for widow, stands for Basic Assistance for Love of the Underprivileged.

It is an apostolate by the widows and their children for other widows and orphans. This makes Balu the newest special ministry of the Archdiocese of San Fernando in Pampanga. said its organizer, Fr. Jose Ronnie Cao.

The concept of Balu, according to Cao, is based on the Gospel account, "The Son of Widow Restored to Life" (Luke 7:11-17).

Overcoming widowhood

"Like Jesus who had pity on the widow in a town called Naim (or Nain), we are also called to respond responsibly to the needs of other people like the widow. Jesus' compassion moved him to restore the life of the widow's son," Cao said.

The women's stories tell of how, even without husbands, they have moved on to keep their families going, solely doing the responsibilities of rearing and disciplining children and finding the means to survive while healing their own wounds from the loss.

Cao's mother, Aurora, overcame widowhood through grit.

Widowed just when she was 30, Aurora has given education to all her five children.

"*Sikap mu* (It's all a matter of hard work)," she said after the tribute that came on her 59th birthday.

"I went farming, sold corn for feeds, raised pigs, maintained a small store, took out loans," she said.

Priorities

Like the rest in the group, she never remarried, wanting to focus on the children.

Felisa Tayag, the oldest of the awardees at 82, lost her husband 13 years ago. She mourned for losing the gift of growing old with him, this *hilot* (village midwife) said.

She said she got by through the help of her 10 children.

Tayag and her late husband supported the children by farming and on his meager salary as an employee at the provincial engineer's office.

How the children got their college degrees is their own feat, Tayag said.

The eldest, a teacher, sent the next sibling to college. This sibling put the next one in school. The pattern went on and on until the 10th finished his course, Tayag said, laughing heartily at this "cycle of sacrifice."

The rest are engineers, one is an aircraft mechanic.

"*Reng anak kasaup mu na la* (The kids team up with you)," she said. "*Manalig ka keng Apung Guinu. Datang ing saup* (Have faith in God. Help will come)."

Some widows took on leadership roles in their communities.

Dr. Leticia Yap, for instance, juggled tasks for various civic organizations as she put two of her six children to law and medical schools.

Having no one to intimately share the day's lessons, insights and troubles was the saddest part.

"For a while, it was difficult. *Nagsasalita ka nang mag-isa nang walang kausap. Yun ang mahirap* (You talk to yourself.)

Army says NPAs demanding ties with village pols

LUCENA CITY—COMMUNIST guerrillas have started meeting with candidates for village and youth council elections next month to warn the candidates of dire consequences should they ignore rebel policies, the military's Southern Command said.

Army Maj. Randolph Cabangbang said the military recently recovered rebel documents and gathered pieces of information that uncovered the rebel meetings with the candidates.

Oaths

Cabangbang said village candidates were being forced to take an oath before the rebels to reject the establishment of military detachments should they get elected.

He said documents showed all guerrilla fronts under the Southern Tagalog Regional Party Committee had been conducting meetings with village candidates.

Cabangbang said copies of the rebel terms were being distributed by guerrillas of the Southern Tagalog party.

"But I believe this is also being imposed all over the country," he said.

The INQUIRER tried to contact communist spokesperson Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal, or any rebel representative in Quezon province, for reaction but to no avail.

No option

An incumbent rural village head in the central part of Quezon admitted that he, and other candidates, were approached by a rebel emissary for a scheduled meeting.

"No definite agenda was mentioned. Ignoring the summons is not an option for us," said the village official.

Cabangbang said the military was gathering reports on the amount of permit to campaign fees that the rebels were collecting from candidates.

According to the military, village candidates are being asked by the NPA rebels to also pledge that they would not allow the recruitment of militia units from their barangays.

Cabangbang said the NPA had also asked winning candidates to cover for captured NPA rebels.

The military said village candidates were also under instructions to gather intelligence information on the movement or activities of government troops in their area and the use of the house of barrio officials as safe refuge for communist guerrillas.

IRA share

"The NPA is also asking the village candidates that should they win in the election, they will give to the rebel movement at least 10 percent of the barangay internal revenue allotment," Cabangbang said.

He said NPAs demand the same share from the cost of government projects in territories where they operate.

"They (NPA) also want the village candidates to swear that they will support the activities of the barangay chapter of any rebel-affiliated political organization," Cabangbang said.

On Oct. 29, a punong barangay, an SK chair, seven Sangguniang Barangay council men and seven SK council members will be elected in each of the 41,994 villages across the country.

The filing of certificates of candidacies will start on Sept. 29 and will last until Oct. 18.

The Commission on Elections said unless Congress declared otherwise, the elections would push through on Oct. 29 despite calls for their postponement.

Delfin T. Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon

FRUIT BOUNTY
Davao residents continue to enjoy bumper harvest of fruits sold at unusually low prices in the market.
DENNIS JAY SANTOS/INQUIRER MINDANAO

Subanens gather to hold 'sorrow ritual'

By Ryan Rosauro
Inquirer Mindanao

OZAMIZ CITY—FIFTY-SIX tribal leaders from Subanen communities in the Zamboanga Peninsula gathered in Siocon, Zamboanga del Norte, on Monday for a three-day "ritual of sorrow" for their sacred ground, Mount Canatuan, due to mining incursions.

The fate of the mountain reflected "the utter disrespect of TVI for indigenous customs and traditions," said Timuay Jose "Boy" Anoy, host of the assembly.

Canatuan is the principal area of operation of the Canadian-owned TVI Pacific Inc. through its Philippine subsidiary, TVI Resources Development Inc. It is the first foreign-owned venture to successfully operate under the Mining Act of 1995.

TVI said it did not trample on the cultural sensitivities of the Subanen by mining in Canatuan. It has repeatedly said that the mountain is not a sacred ground as it was not among the sites listed in the heritage inventory of the National Historical Institute.

Anoy, a member of the Apu Manglang Glupa' Pusaka (Descendants of Apo Manglang), said his people were in possession of a title to an ancestral domain territory that includes Canatuan. They are mourning its destruction in a ritual called the G'longosan sog koguba' nog Konotuan (Tears for the Destruction of Canatuan), he said.

The mining activities, he said, were "bad omen" for other Subanen communities in the region.

Mining interests have dotted the Zamboanga Peninsula since the Supreme Court reversed its earlier decision declaring the Mining Code unconstitutional, according to the Legal Rights and Natural Resources Center-Kasama sa Kalikasan (LRC-KSK), an environmental protection group.

Aside from its 508-hectare "operational tenement" in Canatuan, TVI alone has interest over a potential mineral area spanning Zamboanga del Norte, Zamboanga del Sur and Zamboanga Sibugay.

The company filed applications for exploration agreements with the national government for production sharing or financial and technical assistance in the three provinces, a report of the Mines and Geosciences Bureau in Western Mindanao confirmed.

The area comprises 150,000 hectares of land, or six and a half times the size of Camiguin Island.

Anoy said TVI had been encroaching on the Subanen people's ancestral domain even without their consent. The company said its Canatuan project had the support of a Subanen group called the Siocon Subanen Association Inc., then headed by a certain Mariano Tumangkis.

IT experts regret scandal on ZTE deal

BAGUIO CITY—INFORMATION technology schools and government educators tried to promote President Macapagal-Arroyo's Cyber Corridor program on Wednesday when former Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri testified in the Senate investigation of the National Broadband Network (NBN) project.

But the advocates ended up admitting at a press conference here that the supposed bribery deal implicating the Chinese Zhong Xing Telecommunications Co. (ZTE) and top government officials has already emasculated the program as well as many other government IT initiatives.

Cyber Corridor

Ms Arroyo pursued the creation of the Cyber Corridor in her 2006 State of the Nation Address, which outlined the key investment destinations across the country for business outsourcing firms like call centers or IT software or hardware manufacturing firms.

The Cyber Corridor is bridged by the summer capital in Luzon, which hosts top semiconductor firm Texas Instruments Philippines Inc., and Davao City in Mindanao.

But Alex Buluran, an IT teacher who represented STI at the Cyber Corridor news conference, said average Filipinos have started to attribute corruption to ongoing government IT projects.

Bad impressions

"*Maraming* (There's a lot of) bad impressions now [whenever people refer to government IT programs]... *Maganda talagang gawing* IT (center) *ang* Baguio at Cordillera (Making Baguio and the Cordillera as IT centers is a good idea) but when investors put up the infrastructure, people will immediately assume kickbacks were paid out," Buluran said.

He said this was a sad development for IT because the Cyber Corridor and the NBN are sound information technology projects for the government.

A Baguio-based software developer, who is listed among the Senate's pool of potential resource speakers for the ongoing NBN probe, echoed this sentiment.

Gladys Vergara said the NBN project would have made governance easier.

"The NBN is a very good project. It will make government work faster," said Vergara.

Links

"It means government won't need to pay for cell site access or Internet connections," she said.

Vergara said the NBN would have linked almost every government IT project, including the Department of Education's P26-billion cyber education contract with the Chinese Tsinghua University.

"*Ayusin na nila iyong* red tape *para matuloy na ang* NBN (The government should clean up the red tape so they can finally pursue NBN)," Vergara said.

Marlene Necessito, chief of the Cordillera operations division of the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority, said 80 percent of infrastructure investments in the Cyber Corridor would be "privateled."

She said the government's primary mandate for the corridor is to ensure a pool of competent IT workers. *Vincent Cabreza, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

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DEAL

PROTESTERS wear paint on their faces to protest the ZTE deal that is now being hounded by allegations of big time corruption.
RUDY ESPERAS

Museum readied for Baguio's centennial celebrations

BAGUIO CITY—AS PART OF THE celebration of the city's 100th charter anniversary in 2009, a museum that will keep photographs and documents charting Baguio's growth will be put up in one of its heritage sites.

Michael Pearson, a member of the Baguio Centennial Commission, said the abandoned Diplomat Hotel at Dominican Hill was chosen as museum site because it offers a panoramic view of the city and it is surrounded by trees.

The museum will showcase the beginnings of the mining industry that was introduced by the Americans in Benguet in the early 1900s, Virgilio Bautista, the commission chair, said.

He said the centennial celebration and its related activities would also recognize the participation of foreign workers involved in the construction of Kennon Road, a major link of the city to the lowland provinces.

The construction of Kennon Road, originally called Benguet Road, involved workers from almost 40 countries. Most of the workers were Japanese, Americans and Filipinos, accounts said.

Bautista said the commission was planning to trace the families of the workers so they could be recognized in the 2009 event.

The Japanese-Filipino community in Baguio will be asked to donate documents and memorabilia to the museum, he said.

Books, photographs and documents issued or printed before the outbreak of World War II are now being evaluated for inclusion, Pearson said. It was difficult to find prewar materials, especially books, he said, because most of these were destroyed or lost during the fighting and pillage in the 1940s.

Bautista said the commission was preparing a coffee table book on the history of the city and the people and institutions that contributed to its development. *Desiree Caluza, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

Farmers' problem solver just SMS away

By Anselmo Roque
Inquirer Central Luzon

SCIENCE CITY OF MUÑOZ—Rice farmers with crop problems are now just a text message away from getting assistance from scientists and experts of the Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice) here.

Using their own or borrowed mobile phones, they just text their queries or requests for information to the PhilRice "Farmers' Text Center."

"If the question belongs to the category of most frequently asked questions (FAQs), of which we have the ready answer, we send the answer instantly," said Roger Barroga, project director of the Open Academy for Philippine Agriculture (Opapa) to which the center belongs.

"The answer is condensed in 160 characters," he said.

If the question is too technical, it is sent to scientists or experts of the agency. "They make sure that they get the response of the concerned scientist or expert within a reasonable time to satisfy their waiting clients," Barroga said.

"Sometimes, if the answer seemed vague to the farmer, we contact the PhilRice experts in the field or the technicians from other agencies and request them to visit the farmer."

Some farmers send photographs of their sick rice plants through multimedia messaging service (MMS), Barroga said. Through these photos, he said, the experts could readily tell what kind of disease hit the plants and give the proper procedure on how to control it.

"We do not give though the name of the chemicals to use lest we be accused of patronizing certain products," he said.

The center, which started operating in 2004 using an early-model mobile phone for texting, is now using computers to accommodate hundreds of clients a day.

Dr Leocadio Sebastian, PhilRice executive director, saw the big potential of the texting service to help farmers so the center supported the project, Barroga said.

Records of the center showed that it received 5,327 text messages from January to July or an average of 761 a month. Of the number, 1,071 came from Central Luzon, 824 from the Ilocos and 299 from Calabarzon (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal and Quezon).

Farmers in Northern Mindanao sent the lowest number of messages (25).

The center also receives questions or requests for information on crops other than rice. Barroga said the questions were referred to the proper agencies.

Farmers who want to reach the Farmers' Text Center should type REG/name/age/address/occupation/and the message in their phones and send the inquiry to 0920-911-1398.

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EF 28-105mm f/3.5-4.5 USM II	11,300	8,500
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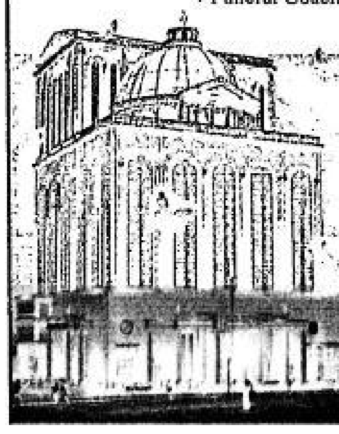

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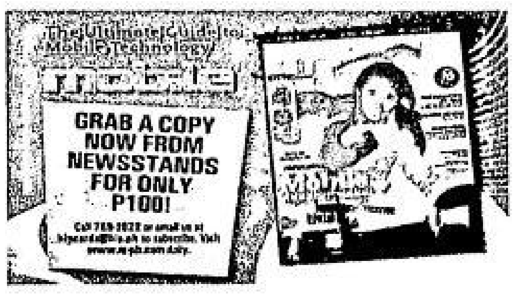

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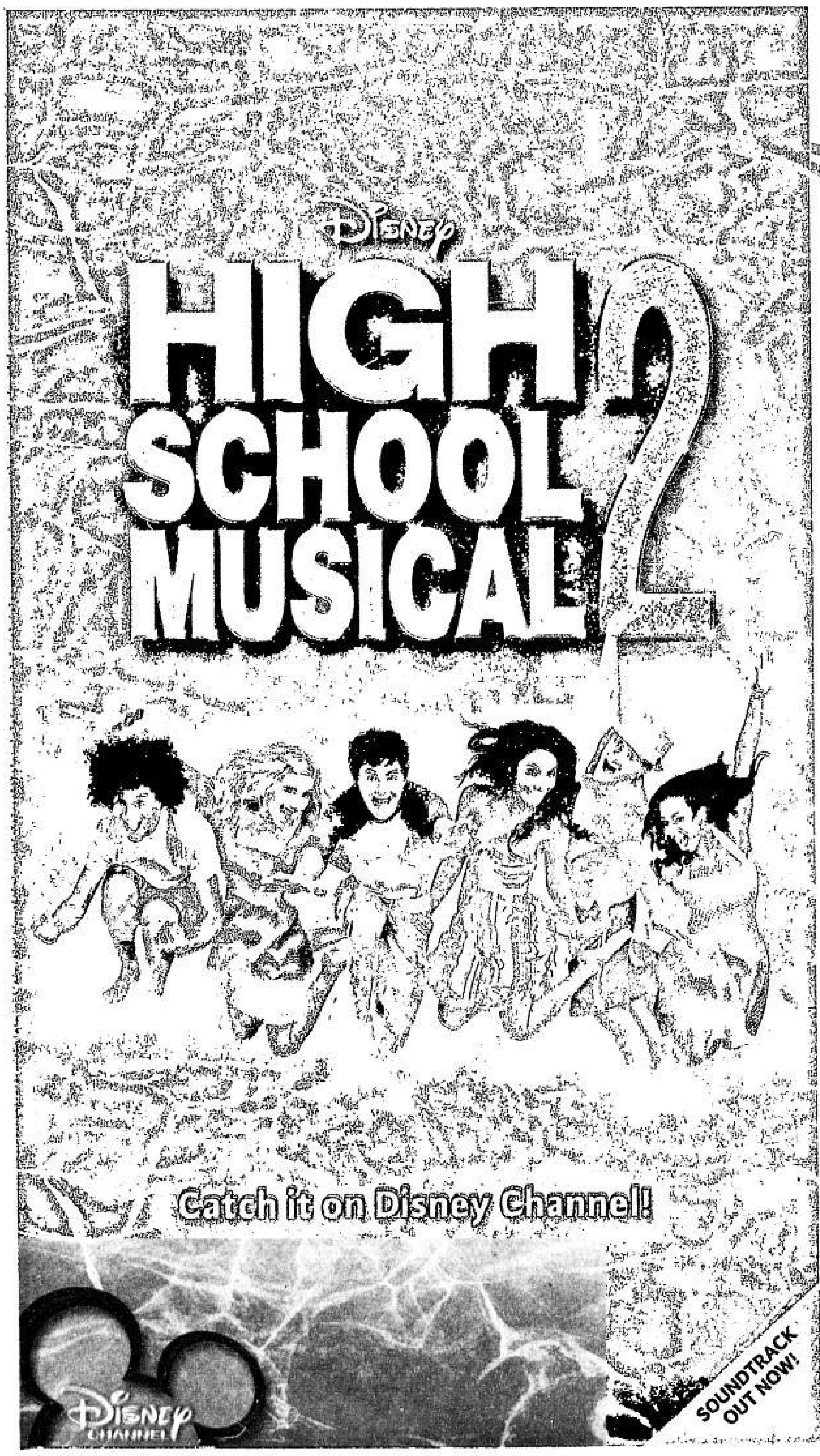

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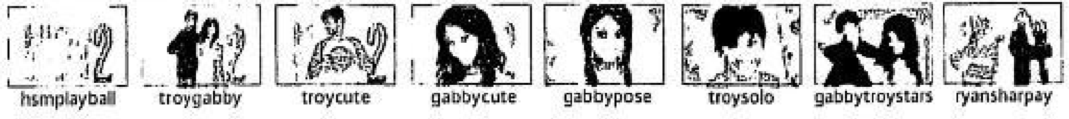

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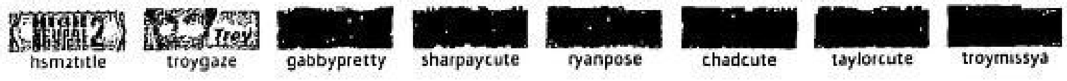

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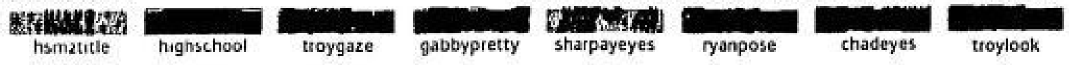

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P25M worth of shabu seized in P'ñaque

Main suspect allegedly part of Binondo-Quiapo drug connection

By Julie M. Aurelio

A CHINESE NATIONAL WAS ARRESTED TUESDAY night in Parañaque City with over 10 kilos of shabu worth P25 million in his possession.

Ang Ahua, 47, of Ongpin Street, Binondo, Manila, was nabbed by operatives of the National Capital Region Police Office during a buy-bust operation at the Naia Road at around 10:30 p.m.

Senior Insp. Rodrigo Palisoc, anti-illegal drugs chief, said Ahua was a member of the Binondo-Quiapo "drug connection" that supplied illegal drugs all over Metro Manila.

The Binondo-Quiapo drug group allegedly supplies drugs all over Metro Manila, although officials did not identify the group's source.

Arrested with Ahua was Salik Sangote, 21, a native of Marawi City and a resident of Arlequi St., Quiapo, Manila.

Seized from the suspects were 10 plastic bags containing a total of 10 kilos of shabu or metamphetamine hydrochloride.

The two were charged in the office of assistant prosecutor Renato Garcia of the Parañaque City prosecutors' office for peddling and transporting illegal drugs.

"We have been monitoring their activities for more than a month now," Palisoc said. The operation, he added, followed the arrest of a Chinese national during another buy-bust operation on Sept 6.

During the earlier arrest, NCRPO seized two kilos of shabu from a Chua Liong Chow and Marlon Susano in Tondo, Manila.

More than two weeks later, Palisoc said a confidential agent of the NCRPO set up a buy-bust deal with Ahua and Sangote in front of the Senses Spa along Naia Road.

The shabu was stored in a dark orange Mazda (UGH 978) and a dark blue Ford F-150 (WJM 959). Authorities also recovered both vehicles. Spokesperson Supt. Rhodel Sermonia said operatives found one kilo of shabu in the Mazda, and the rest hidden in the Ford.

A test at the crime laboratory of the Philippine National Police confirmed that the seized materials were shabu or metamphetamine hydrochloride.

"We should expect more breakthroughs in our campaign against dealers of illegal drugs," Sermonia said.

"Based on the amount of the seized hoard, we can say Ahua is dealing with big time drug pushers if they are selling by the kilo," Sermonia said.

Ordinance is legal basis for 'reward,' says Manila dad

By Allison W. Lopez

A FORMER MANILA GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL said the Commission on Audit (COA) had no right to declare that there was "no legal basis" for the payment of P1.6 million to city councilors who served three-terms.

The payment was provided for in Ordinance No. 8040 enacted by the city council on Dec. 7, 2000.

"The ordinance is the legal basis. But it's up to the court to decide *kung may* legal basis *o wala. Kulang pa nga yung binayad sa amin*. Actually that should be P3 million," claimed Abraham Cabochan, a District 1 councilor for 1995-2004.

The ordinance authorized the conferment of a plaque, retirement and gratuity amounting to at least P3 million to officials, including the mayor, vice mayor and councilors, who qualified for the Exemplary Public Service Award (Epsa).

Payments

Initial payments of P1.6 million were made in 2005 to former councilor Julio Logarta Jr. and four incumbent councilors, Marlon Lacson, Luciano "Lou" Veloso, Jocelyn Dawis-Asuncion and Monina "Pipay" Silva, on behalf of her late husband, Hilarion "Pipoy" Silva.

In 2006, the COA disallowed the payments saying the "monetary reward to former elective officials in the form of retirement and gratuity pay was approved and authorized by the city council without legal basis."

COA Director IV Elizabeth Zosa said the "payment likewise contravenes Article 170 of RA 7160, which provides that no elective or appointive local official shall receive additional, double or indirect compensation unless specifically authorized by law." She asked the six councilors to return the money immediately.

"It's an award, not a benefit. The one who sponsored the ordinance (Lacson) saw that those whose terms had ended *naging kawawa ang buhay dahil napabayaan ang sarili*," said Cabochan, who draws income from swine farms.

Councilors, he said, spent much more from their own pockets for their constituents than congressmen did.

DID YOU KNOW

UNITED Nations Avenue in Manila used to be known as Isaac Peral Street. Peral was the Spanish designer of the first electric submarine that fired torpedoes. The submarine, named "Peral," fired three torpedoes during tests conducted in 1889. *Cyril L. Bonabente, Inquirer Research*

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3 suspected car theft gang members nabbed

By Kenneth M. del Rosario

POLICE ARRESTED THREE suspected car thieves caught Tuesday afternoon in Quezon City in possession of a stolen vehicle.

The suspects are believed to be members of a syndicate. Police identified them as Ricky Moran, 38; Benjie Pascual, 48; and Rodolfo Delgado, 44, all residents of Tondo, Manila.

Authorities said the three were members of the "Rentas Dugas" group whose modus operandi was to rent trailer trucks and container vans from trucking companies. They then sold the vehicles to other trucking companies outside the city.

Police said the suspects also specialized in stealing parked vehicles in dimly lit areas.

The Quezon City Police District Anti-Carnapping Unit (QCPD-Ancar) caught the suspects dismantling an 18-wheeler truck (PJW-565) with two empty 2x20-footer container vans at around 4 p.m. Tuesday in Sauyo Road, Mindanao Avenue, Quezon City. The vehicle, worth at least P2.5 million, was later claimed by its owner, Worldnet Cargo Freight International.

Police also recovered four other container vans worth P1.7 million and two two-unit trailer trucks worth P2 million. They were later claimed by Capital Worldwide Express Cargo Corp. and Topline Globeline Logistics, Inc.

Supt. Bernabe Balba, head of the District Intelligence and Investigation Division, said they were investigating reports that the suspects sold the stolen vehicles to a trucking company in Nueva Ecija.

The vehicles, Balba added, were being sold below their market values. A trailer truck worth P1,000,000, for example, was sold for half the price, he said.

Owners of the stolen vehicles have filed charges of car theft and syndicated estafa against the suspects.

Information on the syndicate came from television programs "Bitag" and "Mission X" hosted by Ben and Erwin Tulfo, respectively.

PLASTIC MAN An enterprising man has loaded his sidecar with empty plastic jugs collected from various households in Manila which he hopes to sell to a junkyard in the business of recycling used items.

RYAN LIM

Raids yield chemicals for making explosives

By Tina G. Santos and Nancy Carvajal

OVER P800,000 WORTH OF chemicals allegedly used in manufacturing explosives were seized yesterday morning from a warehouse in Caloocan and a shanty in Navotas.

The raid was conducted jointly by operatives of the National Bureau of Investigation and Northern Police District.

Edward Villarta, chief of the NBI National Capital Region, said the raiding teams found 492 sacks (25 kilograms each) of ammonium nitrate at Mandarin Chemicals Inc., a warehouse on 6th Street between 11th and 12th Avenues, Grace Park, Caloocan City.

The warehouse was allegedly owned by Ben Macam. The NBI said the raid around 7 a.m. yesterday was conducted following reports that the company was selling ammonium nitrate, a component of explosives.

A police report said three warehouse employees were arrested. Macam was able to elude the raiders.

Chief Insp. Jose Valencia, head of the investigation division of Caloocan City, said the raiding team was armed with a search warrant issued by Vice-Executive Judge Cielito Mindaro-Grulla of the Manila Regional Trial Court.

He said the agents conducted the raid after receiving information that illegal chemicals were stored there.

The company allegedly supplied ammonium nitrate used by fishermen in Navotas engaged in dynamite fishing, the NBI said.

The chemicals were allegedly repacked to make it appear they were animal feeds. Each sack of ammonium nitrate was sold for P1,600.

The NBI said that although Mandarin Chemicals Inc. had the license to possess the chemicals, it did not have the authority to repack and sell them.

"And they sell them to people who also have no license to purchase them, which is also a violation of the law," it added.

The NBI said the owner of the warehouse would be charged with violation of Presidential Decree 1866 or illegal possession and sale of explosives.

Before going to the warehouse, the raiding teams went to a shanty owned by one Alfredo Abeja on Pitong Gatang St., Barangay Sipac Almacen in Navotas.

At least 17 sacks of ammonium nitrate and blasting caps were seized by authorities.

Valencia said the agents put the warehouse and shanty under surveillance after a concerned citizen tipped them off about the stored chemicals.

Fraternities 'surprised' by UP president's directive

By Jeannette I. Andrade

FRATERNITIES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF the Philippines (UP) Diliman were reportedly unprepared for the administrative order issued last week by president Emerlinda Roman directing them to justify their existence within the university system.

University Student Council (USC) president Shahana Abdulwahid told the INQUIRER yesterday that representatives of some 13 fraternities met with the head of the Students' Rights and Welfare (STRAW) committee Tuesday, a day after Roman's directive was sent to leaders of various Greek letter organizations.

The UP president issued the order last week following the suspected fraternity violence-related deaths of students Cris Anthony Mendez of the National College of Public Administration and Governance (NCPAG); and Marlon Villanueva of UP Los Baños.

Abdulwahid said she was present during the meeting where most frat representatives reportedly expressed surprise over the memorandum. "The majority of fraternity members claimed that they had not received the memo," she added.

Of the 13 fraternities, no representative of the Sigma Rho, Alpha Phi Beta, and Scintilla Juris attended the meeting. The three fraternities are among the most dominant Greek letter organizations in the university.

Abdulwahid said the fraternities asked what would qualify as valid justifications for their existence. "They said there were no criteria set or mentioned ... nor was there mention of possible sanctions in case they (fraternities) opted not to comply with the administrative order," she added.

She disclosed plans for a consultation and dialogue between the USC, fraternity representatives and the UP administration to clarify some points in Roman's directive.

Vice chancellor for Student Affairs Elizabeth Enriquez told the INQUIRER that memoranda for the fraternities have been distributed Monday to deans of colleges where leaders of the organizations belonged.

"They should have been aware by now of the administrative order that president Roman issued last week," she said.

Roman's administrative order, PERR-07-80 issued on Sept. 18, directed all UP chancellors nationwide to serve the notice to all fraternities within 15 days upon receipt of the "request," but not later than Oct. 19.

The directive followed a meeting between officials of the administration and different colleges that discussed the selective or outright ban of fraternities.

METROBRIEFS

Fireman dies in brawl

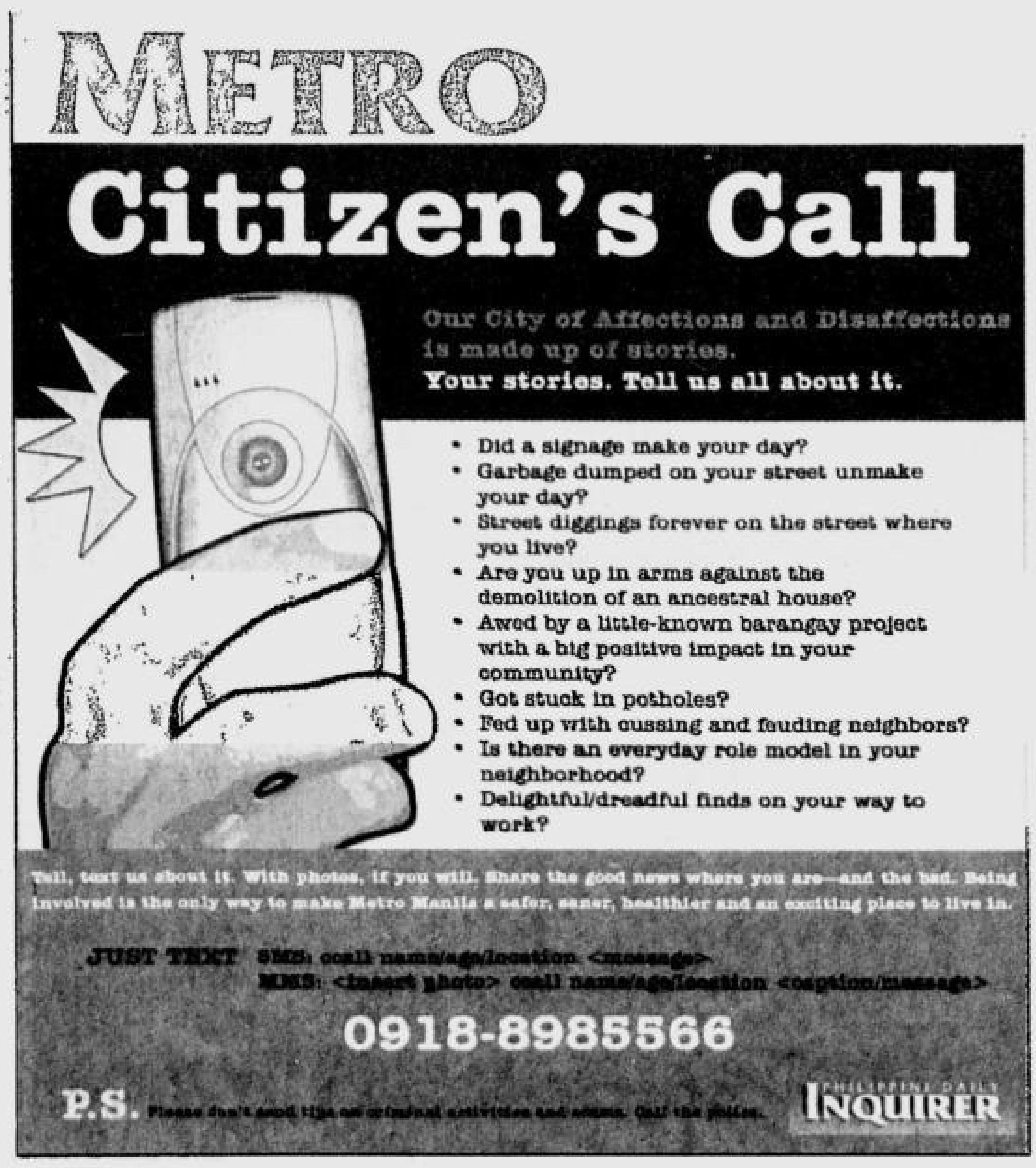
TEN MEN allegedly mauled Randy Llorente, a member of the Bureau of Fire Protection early yesterday morning in Quezon City, resulting in his death. Llorente died on arrival at the East Avenue Medical Center from the heavy beating. The incident happened at 6:30 a.m., yesterday, along Westpoint Street in Cubao. Llorente, who was allegedly drunk, picked a fight with a waiter of the Palawan I Bar and Grill, police said. The victim allegedly turned his ire on the waiter's coworkers who came upon them. This angered five of the suspects who started beating him up. Five other men later joined the mauling. *Jeannette I. Andrade*

Jealousy does not pay

A MAN who stabbed dead his girlfriend in 2001 in an act of jealousy was convicted of murder and sentenced to life imprisonment by a Manila court yesterday. Judge Silvino Pampilo Jr. of Manila Regional Trial Court Branch 26 found Glenn Villabona guilty of the premeditated act against Myralin Cruz, who died from 15 stab wounds in the vicinity of the University of Santo Tomas in Sampaloc. The court also said the accused was unable to prove that it would be physically impossible for him to be at the crime scene. Apart from the penalty of reclusion perpetua, Villabona was ordered to pay P208,000 to Cruz's family. *Allison W. Lopez*

Bonifacio High reunion

MEMBERS of the Andres Bonifacio High School in Sangandaan, Caloocan City, Class '77, are invited to their 30th anniversary reunion on Dec. 30, 6 p.m. at 53 Chicago Tech University Hills, Caloocan City. To register, please call: Fe L. Concepcion, 636-5826; Marie June Garcia Cortez, 847-043; Melinda Magno Cayabyab, 362-9132; Joselito Lorenzo, 480-9909; Celia Dalusong Imperial, 899-5217. Or visit abhs_batch77@yahoogroups.com. Deadline for registration is Oct. 31.



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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Bush asks $190B for Iraq, Afghan wars

WASHINGTON—THE US GOVERNMENT TRIGgered a bruising new battle with Congress Wednesday by demanding the mammoth sum of nearly $190 billion to fund the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The administration's largest funding request yet for the six-year-old "war on terror" came as Democrats battled to pursue a thus-far futile drive to curtail the bloody Iraq mission.

The 2008 budget request was announced by the Pentagon, which also revealed that US military commanders have been warned that they are responsible for overseeing private security contractors in Iraq, a move that comes in the wake of the Sept. 16 shootout in Baghdad involving the Blackwater company that left at least 10 Iraqis dead.

At the United Nations on Tuesday, President George W. Bush assured Iraq Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki of Washington's support, aides said, despite US public anger at the war and the sluggish pace of Iraqi progress on legislation seen as key to forging national unity and quelling sectarian violence.

Addressing the UN Wednesday, Maliki said his country's neighbors realized the dangers of extremist violence on their doorstep as he urged the world body to boost efforts to rebuild the fractured nation.

Even as Maliki spoke, the country was hit the same day with another spate of powerful car and suicide bombings which killed at least 36 people.

The UN has been under strong pressure also from the United States to adopt a higher profile in Iraq, with the Bush administration under intense military strain from the costly war.

But in the US Senate also on Wednesday, a non-binding resolution was passed in favor of subdividing Iraq on ethnic lines, a plan touted by backers as the sole hope of forging a federal state out of sectarian strife.

It proposes to separate Iraq into Kurdish, Shiite and Sunni entities, with a federal government in Baghdad in charge of border security and oil revenues.

The Bush government's proposed budget increase brought a sharp rebuff from Democrats in the Congress.

As Defense Secretary Robert Gates laid out his case for the extra money in a Senate hearing, senior Democrat Robert Byrd said the "nefarious, infernal war in Iraq" had now cost more than $450 billion on its own.

"In the fifth year of this terrible, misguided conflict, this senator—yes, this man from the hill country—believes that it is time for a thorough evaluation of the Bush war in Iraq," the West Virginia senator told Gates.

"If we're serious about supporting our troops, we owe them nothing less."

The Pentagon's budget submission was $42.3 billion greater than the administration's estimate when it presented its first 2008 budget request to the Democratic-led Congress in February.

BUSH takes a seat after addressing the 62nd session of the UN General Assembly Sept. 25. AP

"This additional $42.3 billion puts us at just under $190 billion for the global war on terror supplemental request for 2008—$189.3 billion," Pentagon spokesperson Geoff Morrell told reporters.

Gates said the increase was needed in part to cover the cost of maintaining the so-called "surge" in US forces at least through July 2008, as well as to buy mine-resistant armored vehicles known as MRAPs.

Currently there are 165,000 US troops in Iraq, organized into around 20 combat brigades.

Gen. David Petraeus, the US commander in Iraq, earlier this month announced plans to reduce the size of the force by five brigades by mid-July, which would bring force levels down to around 130,000 troops.

The cost of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan is funded separately from the regular Pentagon budget. The mammoth new request was sure to run into a firestorm in Congress, although the Democrats have so far proven unable to lure enough Republicans away from Bush's Iraq strategy. *AFP*

WORLDBRIEFS

59 killed in Iraq bombings

BAGHDAD—Bomb attacks killed 59 people and wounded more than 120 across Iraq on Wednesday when suspected al-Qaida militants stepped up a campaign of violence coinciding with the Muslim holy month of Ramadan. In a mainly Shiite district of southwest Baghdad, twin car bombs killed 32 people in one of the biggest attacks to hit the Iraqi capital in weeks. ***Reuters***

Saudi asks Israel to abandon barrier

ISRAEL should stop work on a security barrier in and along the West Bank and halt settlement activity there as a good-will gesture to assure Arab states that it is serious about comprehensive peace talks, Saudi Arabia's foreign minister said Wednesday. The minister, Prince Saud al-Faisal, stopped short of making his demand a condition for Arab attendance at a planned Middle East peace conference. ***NYT***

2 Danish soldiers killed in Afghanistan

COPENHAGEN, Denmark—Two Danish soldiers were killed and a third was injured in a gun battle with Taliban fighters in southern Afghanistan, Denmark's military said Thursday. The firefight happened Wednesday in Upper Geresk Valley in Helmand province, the Army Operational Command said. Denmark has some 600 troops in Afghanistan. Including the latest deaths, a total of six Danish soldiers have been killed in Afghanistan. ***AP***

3 drinks a day boost breast cancer risk

BARCELONA—Three or more drinks a day, whether beer, wine or spirits, boost a woman's risk of breast cancer as much as smoking a pack of cigarettes, US researchers said on Thursday. In what the researchers said was one of the largest studies to investigate links between breast cancer and alcohol—found that alcohol itself and the amount a person consumed were key rather than the type of drink. Breast cancer is the second most common cancer killer of women, after lung cancer. It will be diagnosed in 1.2 million people globally this year and will kill 500,000. ***Reuters***

See-through frogs cancel need for dissection

TOKYO—Japanese researchers have succeeded in producing see-through frogs, letting them observe organs, blood vessels and eggs under the skin without performing dissections. "You can see through the skin how organs grow, how cancer starts and develops," said the lead researcher Masayuki Sumida, professor at the Institute for Amphibian Biology of state-run Hiroshima University. "You can watch organs of the same frog over its entire life as you don't have to dissect it. The researcher can also observe how toxins affect bones, livers and other organs at lower costs," he said. ***AFP***

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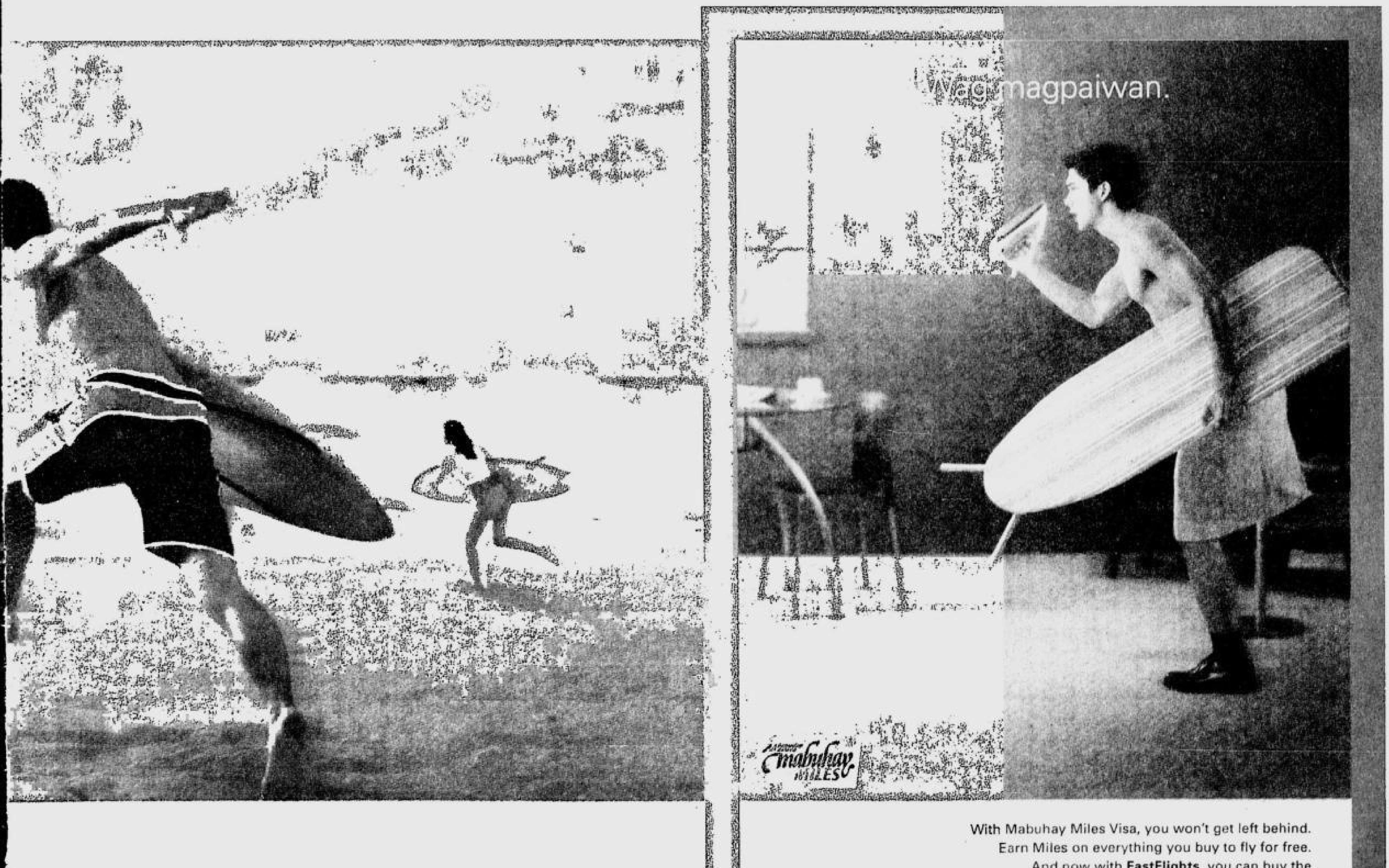

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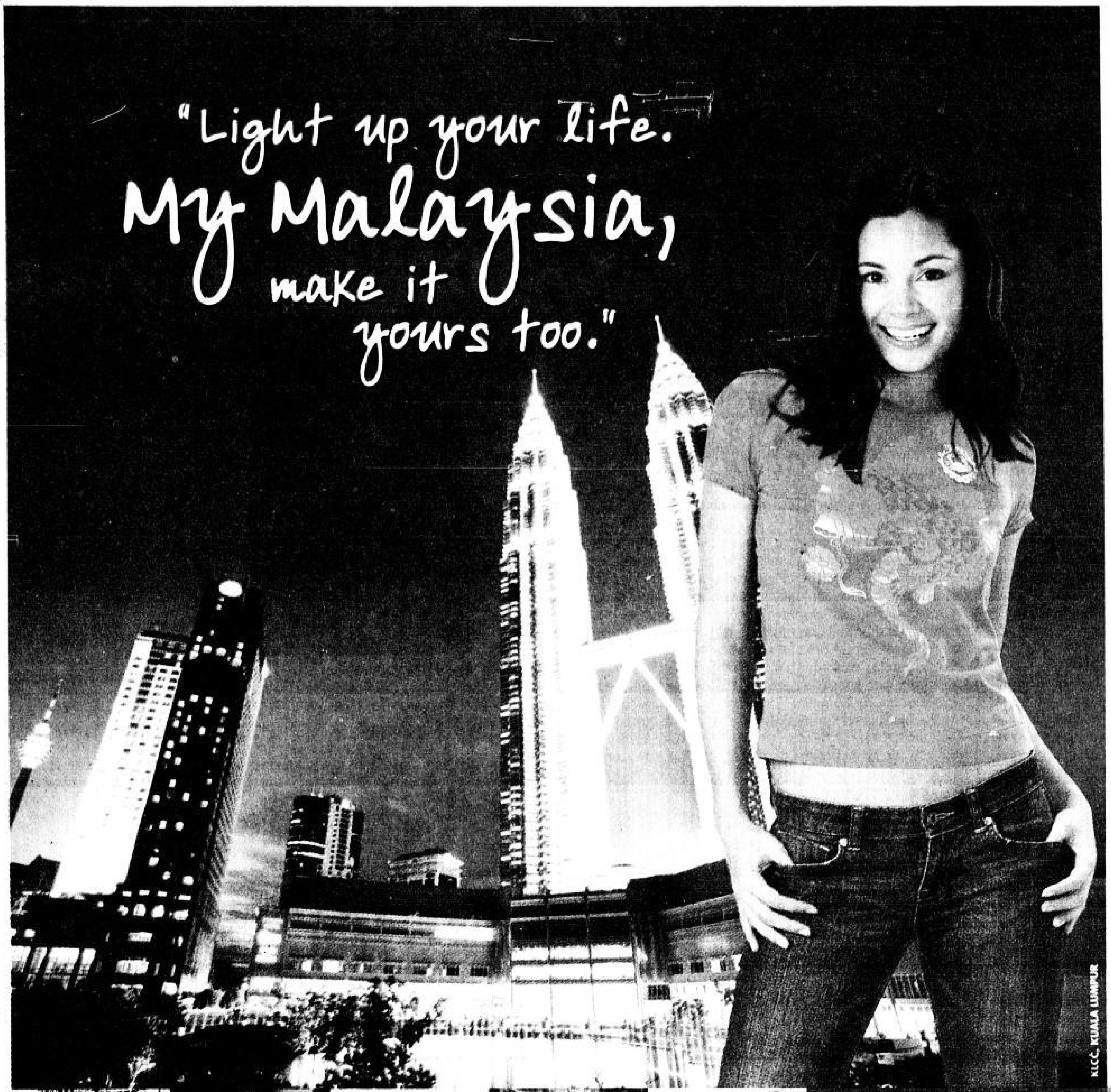

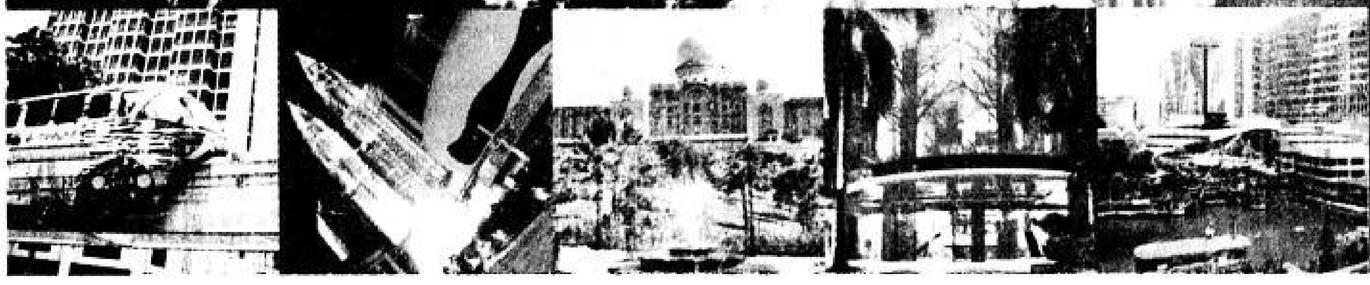

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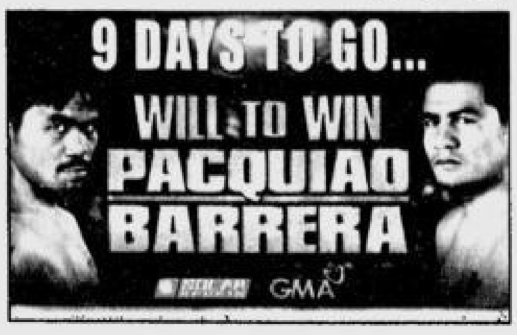
9 DAYS TO GO... WILL TO WIN PACQUIAO BARRERA GMA

Gritty Blue Eagles just won't die

LA SALLE'S Rico Maierhofer seeks an open teammate as he hits the floor off a rebound in yesterday's match at the Araneta Coliseum. Clamping down on the Archer are Ateneo's Zion Laterre and Chris Tiu. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Tiu dooms Green Archers with drive

By Jasmine W. Payo

CHRIS TIU SPARKED AND CAPPED A SEVEN-POINT ATENEO RUN DOWN the wire as the Blue Eagles stunned the La Salle Green Archers with a thrilling 65-64 triumph yesterday in a continuation of nail-biters that have highlighted their UAAP basketball rivalry this season.

Tiu scored the game-winning drive with 7.3 seconds left before a jampacked crowd at the Araneta Coliseum as Ateneo forced a knockout battle this Sunday with La Salle. It also put the Eagles in a position for a return trip to the Finals.

"It was tough, La Salle came out with a lot of energy," said Tiu. "But we hung in there, we stuck together as a team."

The Eagles now have the momentum when the two bitter adversaries meet for the fifth time in a winner-take-all match for the right to fight the University of the East Warriors in a best-of-three Finals.

"It could have gone either way," said Ateneo coach Norman Black. "Like I said before, these two teams are evenly matched. It depends on who has the will to win on that particular game."

The Archers, starring TY Tang and Cholo Villanueva, seemed to have the Eagles pinned for good with a 64-58 advantage going into the final two minutes.

But Tiu came up with a clutch triple that cut the deficit, 61-64, with 1:54 minutes left. Ford Arao then delivered the last two points of a season-saving effort of 19 before Tiu struck with the game's biggest basket.

"At least some of the other guys stepped up and really held the fort," said Black. "But the bottomline was Chris Tiu, who struggled the entire game with one point and five turnovers in the first half. But when the game was on the line, he came up with the big shots that helped us down the stretch."

Rookie Ateneo center Nonoy Baclao contributed six of his eight points in the final seven minutes even as Black paid tribute to the Eagles' defense that held the Archers scoreless in the final two minutes.

La Salle had a chance to turn the game around but rookie Bader Malabes missed a three-point shot and a Rico Maierhofer follow-up was off-target as time expired.

Ateneo alumnus banned

Off the court, the UAAP board issued an unprecedented decision by banning an Ateneo alumnus at the game venue for two years.

The league meted the sanction to Raffy Dayrit, who nearly came to blows with league commissioner Ed Cordero at courtside after the Ateneo-Santo Tomas tussle last Sunday.

La Salle also ended up at the losing end in yesterday's board meeting after the league turned down Brian Ilad's appeal to reconsider his five-game suspension.

The board slapped the penalty on the rookie center for punching University of the East's Mark Fampulme.

The scores:

ATENEO 65—Arao 19, Tiu 14, Baclao 8, Salamat 8, Al-Hussaini 5, Baldos 4, Barracoso 4, Long 3, Austria 0, Escueta 0, Reyes 0, Laterre 0.

LA SALLE 64—Tang 20, Casio 11, Malabes 7, Villanueva 7, Cua 7, Walsham 5, Atkins 0, Ferdinand 0, Co 0, Barua 0.

Quarters: 15-16, 30-31, 47-52, 65-64

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Rosales-Lascuña shares 4th in World Cup qualifier

ROSALES

KUALA LUMPUR—Malaysia and Thailand lived up to their billing as favorites, firing matching 11-under-par 61s in the fourball format for the joint first-round lead in the Fortis International Challenge on Thursday.

Iain Steel and Airil Rizman shoting 11 birdies for an unblemished card at Kota Permai Golf and Country Club. Thongchai Jaidee contributed eight birdies to boost his Thai partnership with Prayad Marksaeng.

The Netherlands' Maarten Lafeber and Robert-Jan Derksen overcame a sluggish start to post a 64 for third place while Gerald Rosales and Tony Lascuña of the Philippines, South Korea's Lee Sung and Lee Seung-ho and Chinese Taipei's Lin Wen-tang and Lin Wenhong carded matching 65s to share fourth.

The top five will earn slots in the Omega Mission Hills World Cup in China in November.

Rosales was delighted that the Philippines is in the hunt after the fourball round.

"We didn't have the best of starts but played well on the back nine," he said. "We're only four back. Tony and I struck the ball nicely and we're looking forward to tomorrow."

First round results (fourball):

61—Malaysia (A. Rizman, I. Steel), Thailand (T. Jaidee, P. Marksaeng); 64—Netherlands (R.J. Derksen, M. Lafeber); 65—Korea (Lee S.H., Lee S.), Chinese Taipei (Lin W.T., Lin W.H), **RP (T. Lascuna, G. Rosales)**; 66—New Zealand (R. Lee, S. Scahill), Singapore (M. Mamat, Lam C.B.), Pakistan (M. Ahmed, M. Munir), Hong Kong (J. Stewart, Wong W.M.); 67—Switzerland, (M. Rominger, R. Wiederkehr). Asian Tour News

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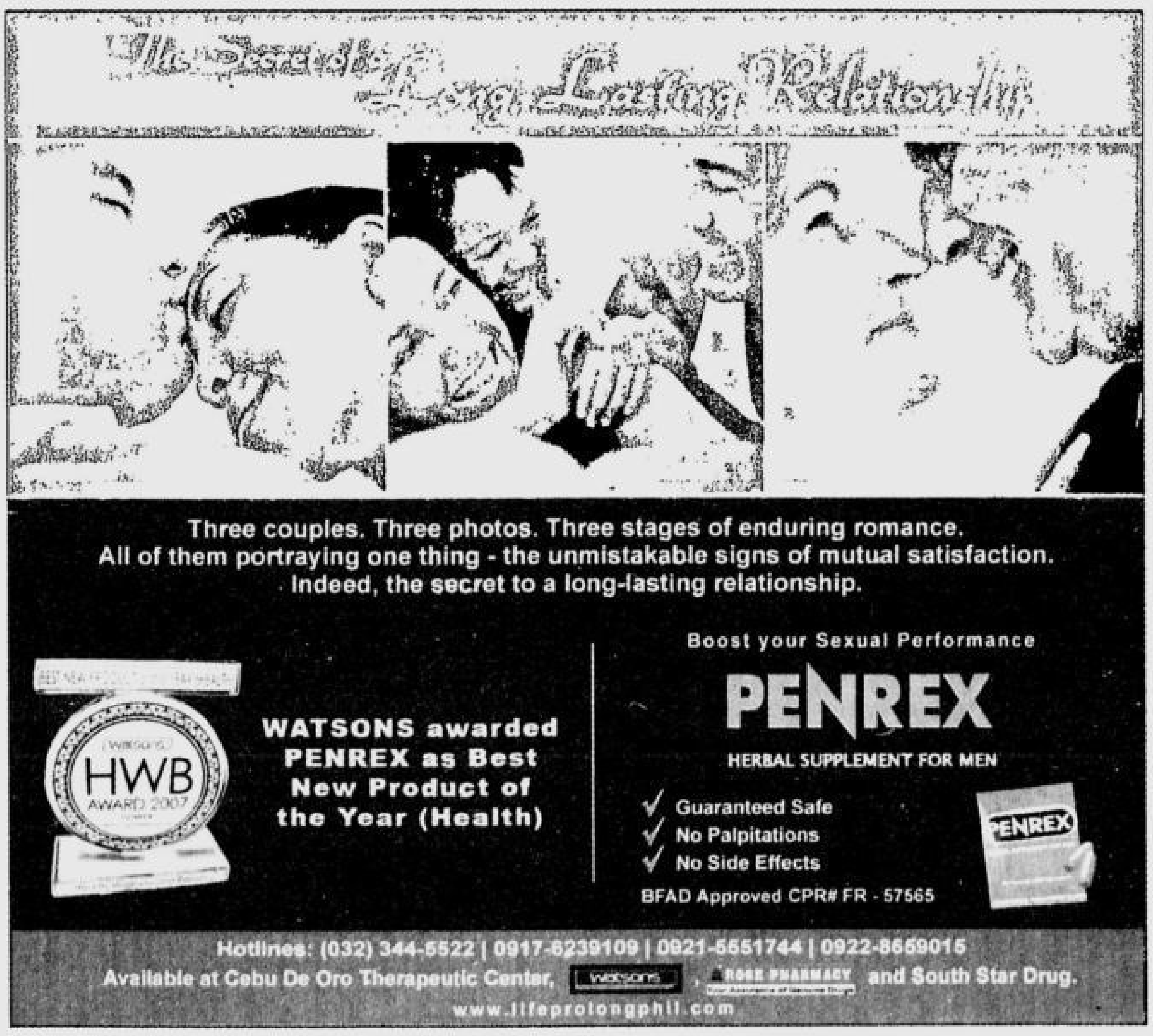
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Invitational tournament to highlight new PBA season

By Musong R. Castillo

MACAU—BECAUSE OF THE ABSENCE OF AN international tournament the PBA is committed to supporting in the middle of next year a "third conference" for the season—an invitational tournament—will be held.

Members of the league's board planed into this gambling mecca of Asia on Tuesday to chart the direction the PBA will take, at least for the next two years, with the invitational all but approved.

The PBA, under commissioner Noli Eala, had adjusted its calendar by holding its season from October to July, instead of the old February to December, after committing itself to supporting the country in international competitions.

It also adopted a two-conference format for the last three seasons to be able to free itself up during the months of August to October every year and lend its players to most of the big Fiba tournaments.

The PBA will throw its support behind the RP team only in 2009, when the qualifying event for the 2010 World Championship is held in Turkey.

The idea of bringing back the old three-conference format was not tackled at length during the meeting.

It is still not clear, though, what teams from what region the PBA would be inviting. What is certain is that not all 10 teams will play in the invitational.

One idea being considered is for the champion teams of the Philippine and Fiesta Cups to be seeded outright into the invitational and for the stars of the other eight teams to form two more teams.

Red Lions roaring for more

By June Navarro

THERE SEEMS NO DISPELLING TALK OF A developing San Beda dynasty after the Red Lions easily captured their second straight NCAA basketball crown on Wednesday night.

Except for the departure of pro-bound Yousif Almajal and the graduation of Raymond Maggay, the Red Lions' championship core is still intact.

What's ominous for the opposition, led by the Letran Knights whom the Red Lions swept in the Finals, is the fact that San Beda has a pair of battle-ready replacements who could make them even more frightening.

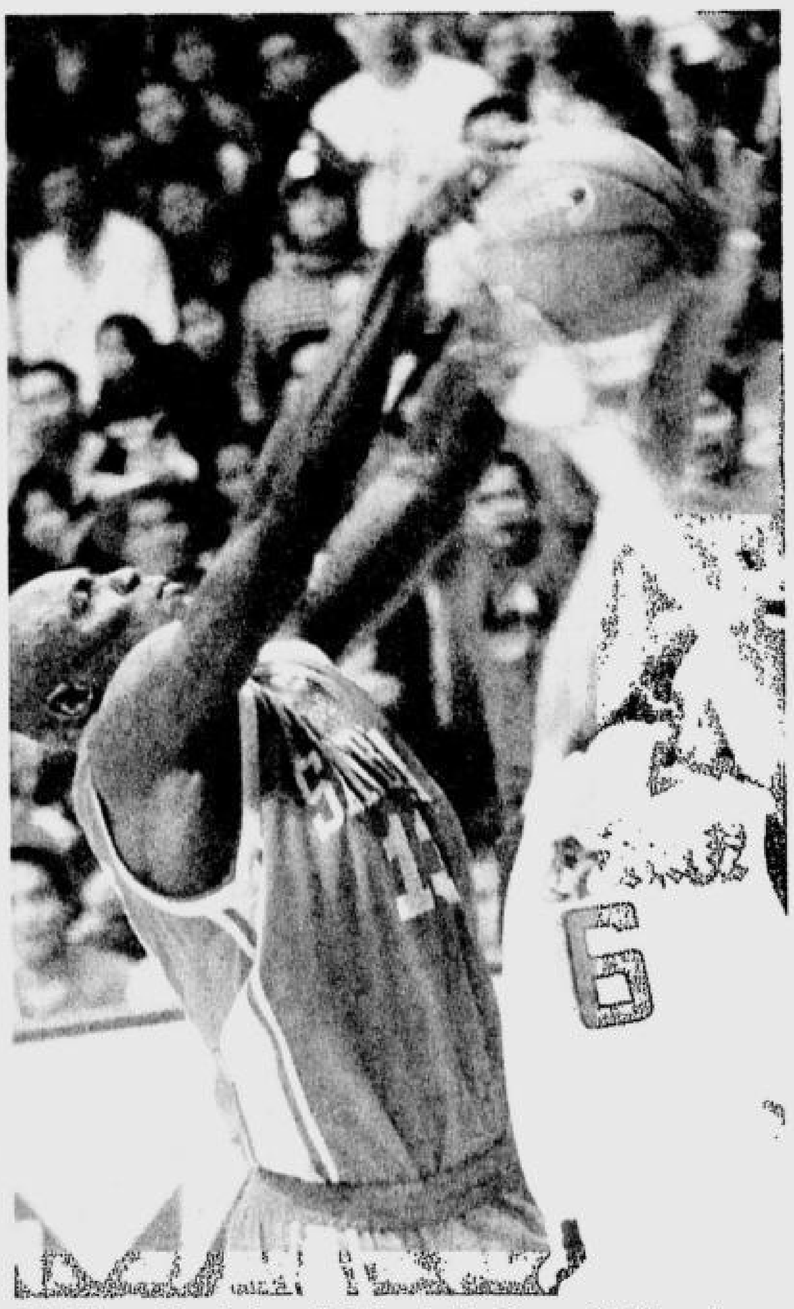
Another Nigerian, aside from the 6-foot-7 Sam Ekwe, and a prolific scorer from the junior ranks will most likely suit up for the Mendiola-based hoopsters next season.

The 6-foot-5 Kevin Udo is another Ekwe in the making and 2006 NCAA juniors Top Rookie-MVP Elvin Pascual has all the tools of a potential San Beda star.

"There are rules to follow and I think we're following those rules to the letter," said San Beda coach Frankie Lim after rewarding his alma mater with its 13th NCAA seniors crown overall.

Lim was referring to Udo's inclusion in the San Beda roster next season.

With Udo and Ekwe together and the 6-4 Pascual giving more depth to Lim's rotation that already has Ogie Menor, Pong Escobal, Borgie Hermida and Jay-R Taganas, the Red Lions look even more formidable.



SAM Ekwe of San Beda easily foils a shot by Reymar Gutilban of Letran in their NCAA title match Wednesday night. The Red Lions went on to clinch a second straight championship. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

RP jins again in top form, assures coach

By Marc Anthony Reyes

MANCHESTER, ENGLAND—THE FOUR-man Philippine taekwondo team hunting for Olympic slots here has quickly acclimatized to the 8-degree Celsius weather and, based on its strenuous workout Wednesday, is back in "tip-top condition."

The assessment came from national coach Roberto "Kitoy" Cruz, a three-time World Championship silver medalist and six-time Southeast Asian Games champion, after the Filipinos practiced at the Manchester Velodrome, where all the jins from over 100 countries took turns catching up on their training.

The Philippines is pinning high hopes on the taekwondo jins and the boxers to land the country's first gold medal in the Olympics.

"They are focused and are in tip-top condition," said Cruz of jins Thsomlee Go, Mary Antoinette Rivero, Alexander Briones and Kathleen Eunice Alora. "No problem with the cold weather, either."

Cruz noted that practically all the reigning world champions are here, including the top Chinese Taipei and Croatia bets who are seeing action in Go's -58kg category.

"That's why in (Thursday's) drawing of lots, *wala kang pipiliin* (everyone is a contender)," said Cruz. "You have to show your best and your heart because all have the same skills.

And Go is no pushover. The 5-foot-9 Filipino is a silver medalist in the 2001 World Cup, 2000 Asian Championships and 2006 Asian Games. He is also the 2005 Southeast Asian Games champion.

On the way back to the hotel, the 26-year-old Go, the most senior in the squad, offered a prayer at the Manchester Cathedral, next door to the M.E.N. Arena where the World Championships will be held starting Friday.

Go, also the assistant coach of the UST team, said he needs all the help he can get.

Despite the odds, Filipinos have performed well in Olympic qualifying tournaments.

After Stephen Fernandez and Bea Lucero bagged bronzes in the 1992 Olympics, when taekwondo was still a demonstration sport, the Philippines successfully fielded bets in the next two Olympiads.

In 2000, Cruz, Donnie Geisler, Eva Marie Ditan and Jasmine Strachan snagged Olympic berths in the Manila qualifier. Geisler, Go and Rivero barged into the 2004 Athens Games.

Pacquiao turns on heat, issues warning

By Recah Trinidad

LOS ANGELES—MANNY PACQUIAO yesterday formally turned on the heat and declared that his raging rivalry with Mexican warrior Marco Antonio Barrera could be decided only in actual battle, not through useless chatter.

"*Sa labanan lamang malalaman kung sino talaga ang magaling* (The better fighter could only be decided inside the ring)," Pacquiao told a television interviewer over breakfast as he momentarily turned from puncher to philosopher.

The brief statement could have well tolled the countdown to Pacquiao's Oct. 6 rematch with Barrera, as trainer Freddie Roach wasted no time to make corrective adjustments in defense during an afternoon punching drill.

Pacquiao resumes sparring this afternoon, after he had allowed himself to be tagged with right shots to the head in an eight-round workout against two Mexican fighters the other day.

His dare to settle everything inside the ring was so far the first uttering on the fight from Pacquiao, who has been training in relative silence, while the Barrera camp regularly issued statements from Guadalajara.

Pacquiao touched on various issues, including politics, during the unscheduled breakfast interview which will be aired over GMA 7.

Pacquiao, dusting off jet lag, had a morning nap before returning to the gym, where Roach imparted timely tips on defense, including moves to counteract foul tactics.

Roach made sure there will be no repeat of the sub-par stance previously displayed by Pacquiao when the Filipino boxing hero resumes sparring today.

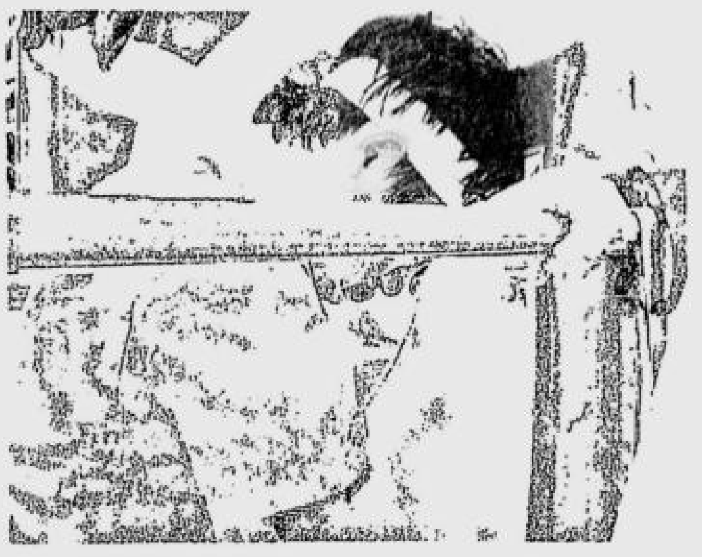
Roach had to ask Pacquiao to polish up on defense after the prized warrior got tagged with repeated rights to the head by his two sparmates.

"Yes, we did some defensive drills out there," Roach told the INQUIRER.

Pacquiao's sparring today is part of the remaining tapering off drills before his group heads for Las Vegas in a convoy Monday afternoon.

Meanwhile, physical therapist Jeff Guzman said Pacquiao has visibly adapted to local time and weather after he managed to break into a sweat in less than 10 minutes, unlike last Tuesday when it took him at least 17 minutes to fully warm up.

De Guzman added that Roach visibly instilled in Pacquiao, a noted clean fighter, ways to offset elbows, headbutts, shoulder shoves and other foul tactics which he could encounter.



FILIPINO RING hero Manny Pacquiao pauses for a brief prayer before plunging into another hectic session at the Wild Card Gym in Los Angeles. The Pacman is winding up his training for his Oct. 6 rematch with Marco Antonio Barrera. MANOLO TRINIDAD

Pacman's speed and power will thwart Barrera

By Hermie Rivera

COMMENTARY

THAT'S MANNY PACQUIAO'S CLEAR intent in crushing Marco Antonio Barrera's October hunt for redemption at the Mandalay Bay Resort and Casino in Las Vegas.

The Filipino idol is itching to repeat his 11th round stoppage of the Mexican three-time world champ whose recklessness at the Alamodome in San Antonio almost ruined his livelihood.

Makes one wonder why Barrera would want to risk it all again.

But Barrera is one good fighter who is now doing it right.

The ring-savvy Guadalajaran has become attractive to promoters—unbeaten since his Texas collapse, less the theft of his WBC super featherweight belt he defended against Juan Manuel Marquez at the MGM Grand.

Now, Marco is into a bold experiment—that of engaging the services of Edwin Valero, a Venezuelan lefty who has iced all of his 22 victims (pedicab drivers?).

So far there's been no hints of distraction in Marco's preparations.

Nothing vexed Manny's camp either, save for a minor ailment which was readily remedied.

We will know soon if this imported sparmate can deliver for the "assassin" who has been ranting he'll smash the Pacman for avoiding him like the hated tax hound.

Valero must help his new-found *padrino*. Otherwise, Señor Barrera's worst fear of getting kayoed again will happen.

Marco's toughness is a given. But his ability to extricate himself from a Pacquiao-orchestrated bind remains his chief headache as we move closer to the highly awaited classic.

OK, there's a chance the multititled Mex can pull an upset. But he has to negate Manny's speed in the heated exchanges or else a bad loss will mark the end of Barrera as a world-class fighter.

Not an easy task since Marco is up against a master mangler who nearly converted his boxing license into a sales document that permits him to sell pencils in his cozy Guadalajara.

Fight fans generally want to watch action-sated smokers spiced by punches that twist a fighter's face which their own moms can't recognize.

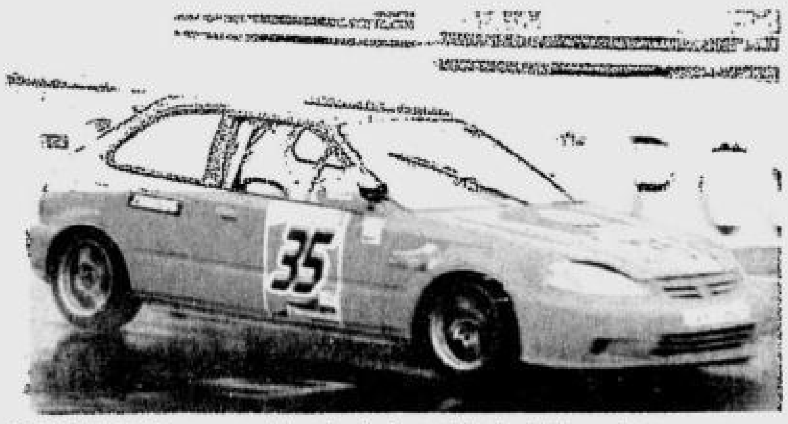
No problem. In this bout, both combatants are capable of providing one-punch knockouts or the multiblow variety.

There will be more power punches thrown than those executed in their first encounter—making it a compelling theater steeped in high drama.

No title is at stake this time as decreed by the promoters.

The WBC has been imposing its International title belt to extract unjustified sanction fees from the involved fighters.

It's one of the greatest perfidies since the sale of the Brooklyn bridge more than once by con artists in various eras.



JONATHAN Buxton tackles the final straight in driving rain to sew up the Petron-San Mig Coffee series title in partnership with Carlon Anton.

Buxton, Anton rule GT series

JONATHAN BUXTON AND CARLOS ANTON survived mechanical problems in the 30-lap final race at the Batangas Racing Circuit recently and emerged winners of the 2007 Petron-San Mig Coffee Philippine Grand Touring (GT) Championship Series.

The MP Turbo tandem led the race when their drive draft suddenly broke, almost spoiling the pair's title bid with five laps to go.

But Buxton, who took over the wheel from Anton in the last 15 laps, kept his composure and drove conservatively in the remaining laps to salvage a second-place finish, just enough for the tandem to bag the overall crown.

It was the first major career title for Buxton. For Anton, it was his second national title and 15th career championship.

Raymond Conti and Hender Paul Perez claimed the GT 200 title in one hour, eight minutes and 56.736 seconds, exactly one lap ahead of the Buxton-Anton pair.

Felix Perez and Mato Tan, who dominated the first 21 laps of the race, encountered engine problems and settled for third place.

SPORTSWATCH

Top players vie for P1.5M in Pacific Poker Palace Cup

A HUNDRED OR SO LOCAL AND FOREIGN players slug it out for top honors in the first Pacific Poker Palace Cup tomorrow at the Airport Casino Filipino in Parañaque City.

Billed as one of the mind sport's biggest local tournaments this year, the event dangles a prize pot that could reach P1.5 million with a bigger number of entries.

Ben dela Cruz of PPP said several players have already qualified for the event after advancing from the daily satellite games.

The PPP has already produced several Filipino winners in overseas tournaments.

Among the top Filipinos expected to vie in the PPP Cup are Col. Wally "The Dream" Sombero; Derick Hernandez, the lone Filipino who reached the final table of the 1st Asia Pacific Poker Tour-Manila leg last August; and Neil Arce, the only Filipino to land in the money circle of the World Series of Poker in Las Vegas in June.

'Labanan' on today in Pasay

ANOTHER BIG STAGFEST BILLED AS "Labanan Sa Pasay" 4-stag derby kicks off today at Pasay City Cockpit with an 80-fight program presented by Sagupaan Complexor 3000.

A guaranteed prize of P400,000 is at stake for an entry fee of P11,000.

Members of the Pasay Cockpit Cockers Association (PCCA) as well as breeders groups affiliated with the National Federation of Gamefowl Breeders (NFGB) and United Gamecock Breeders Association (UGBA) are fielding entries in the derby.

100 fights in Pasig stagfest

THE SHOWDOWN AMONG LEADING derby bidders from Rizal province resumes today at Pasig Square Garden as the second leg of Rizal Gamecock Breeders Association (RGBA) 4-Stag Derby series unfurls at 1 p.m. with more than 100 fights.

The RGBA executive committee, headed by Manny Berbano and Joey Sy, announced that the RGBA Stag Breeder of the Year will receive P100,000 while the Stagfighter of the Year gets P50,000.

RACING

BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1—(Tri)— Mischievous (3), Queen of Gala (2), Play It Again/Mary Jane Bomb (1)
Race 2—(Qrt/Tri)—La Tienne (3), Deputy Stravinsky (5), Dacing Polly (6), No Fear (4)
Race 3—(Qrt/Tri)—El Cid (4), Anytime Anywhere (6), Kaligatan (2), Risk Taker (5)
Race 4—(Tri)—Cool Town (3), Lucky Joe (4), Last Hazm (2)
Race 5—(Qrt/Tri)—Stoops (7), Kirsten (1), Hickman (6), Dark Desert (5)
Race 6—(Tri)—Royal Lady Jane (3), Rough Red (2), Great Honor (4)
Race 7—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Bull Rock (1), Step on the Gas (5), Run Like D'Wind (8), Baling Ganda (6), Danehill Dave (7)
Race 8—(Qrt/Tri)—Virginia (6), Mercurio (2), Body Shot (5), Crowning Glory (4)
Race 9—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Lady Commander (1), Splendor (2), Windlass (8), Regent Skipper (6), Sports Illustrated (3), Magical Street (5)

Darwin caps quest with swift draw

Standings after nine rounds:
7.0 points—Zhang P. (China); 6.5—S. Megaranto (Indonesia), Wang H. (China); **6.0— D. Laylo (RP)**, Ni H. (China), Zhao J. (China), Wen Y. (China), Liem L.Q. (Vietnam), A. Fillippov (Uzbekistan); 5.5— Z. Jianchao(China)*, A. Kunte (India)*, L. Chao (China), G. Gopal (India), C. Deepan (India), M. Al-Modiahki (Qatar, D. Neelotpal (India)), S. Ganguly (India), D.T. Hai (Vietnam), C. Sandipan (India)**5.0—R. Antonio (RP)*, O. Dimakiling (RP)**, U. Adianto (Indonesia), L. Shilong (China), Y. Shaoteng (China), E. Hossain (Bangladesh), T. Batchuluun (Mongolia), M. Mahjoobzardast (Iran), G. Rohi (India)*; **4.5—W. So (RP), S. Yap (RP)**, M. Ardeshi (Iran), T.H,. Thong (Vietnam), P. Negi (India), M. Al-Sayed (Qatar), H. Toufigi (Iran), S. Yang(China), J. Alavi (Iran), N.A. Dung (Vietnam), Zhou W (China), P. Arun (India), D.D. Trogn (Vietnam); **4.0—E. Torre (RP)*, M. Paragua (RP)*, R. Bancod (RP), J. Sadorra (RP), H. Nouri (RP)**, E. Gahemmaghami (Iran), A. Bagheri (Iran), E. Moradiabadi (Iran), P. Girinath (India)*, A. Kim (Korea)*, X. Jun (China)* **unfinished matches*

By Roy Luarca

MANDAUE CITY—VINDICATION CAME SWIFTLY FOR Darwin Laylo yesterday.

Laylo split the point with Chinese GM Zhao Jun in just 8 moves of a Slav to gain his third and final Grandmaster result in the Sixth Asian Individual Chess Championship at the Cebu International Convention Center here.

His second draw, coupled with five wins and two losses, gave Laylo 6.0 points after nine rounds and put him in strong contention for a top ten finish and a stint in the Chess World Cup slated in Russia in November.

Knowing that all he needs is a draw to complete his GM requirement, Laylo first offered the truce after four moves.

Zhao, who shared the eighth-round lead with Indonesian GM Susanto Megaranto and countryman GM Zhang Pengxiang at 6.0 points, declined, but later offered to halve the point when Laylo played solidly with white.

The second-seeded Pengxiang, champion of the First President Macapagal-Arroyo Cup last November, trounced Qatari GM Mohammad Al-Modiahki in 56 moves of a Sicilian-Mossolimo variation to emerge solo leader with 7.0 points.

DARWIN Laylo: Philippines' newest Grandmaster PDI PHOTO

Megaranto also drew with Chinese International Master Wen Yang and was at 6.5 points like Zhao and countryman GM Wang Hao, who downed Indian GM G.N. Gopal (5.5 points).

Top seed GM Ni Hua, boasting an Elo rating of 2681, continued his steady climb by beating Bangladeshi IM Enamul Hossain and catching up with Laylo, Wan and Uzbekistan IM Anton Filippov,

"*Ang sarap ng* (It's a great) feeling," said Laylo, returning to competitive play after serving a six-month suspension slapped by the National Chess Federation of the Philippines for alleged involvement in game-fixing during last year's Tanauan Open.

With his GM status assured, Laylo said his second goal is to finish highly in the 11-round $40,000 tournament expectedly being dominated by the Chinese and the Indians.

Laylo won over GMs Chanda Sandipan of India and Dao Thien Hai of Vietnam, Filipinos Rhobel Legaspi and Kim Steven Yap and Mongolian Fide Master Tsegmed Batchuluun. He was beaten by Indonesian GM Utut Adianto and Indian GM Parimarjan Negi and also drew with Chinese GM Zhou Jianchao.

Chinese WGM Shen Yang, the lone female entry, yielded to Indian GM Surya Shekhar Ganguly and stayed at 4.5 points. Ganguly rose to 5.5 points.

Filipino GMs Rogelio "Joey" Antonio (5.0 points), Eugene Torre (4.0) and Mark Paragua (4) were still tangling with separate opponents at presstime.

Laylo rises as seventh Pinoy GM

MANDAUE CITY—DARWIN LAYLO THRIVES on challenges.

Slapped with a six-month suspension by the national chess federation, NCFP, for alleged game-fixing, Laylo did not sulk. Instead, he used the time to study more and teach the game to the UST girls' high school team.

Little did Laylo know that the break would serve him well, right in his first comeback tournament—the Sixth Asian Individual Chess Championship—at the Cebu International Convention here.

With two rounds remaining, the 27-year-old Laylo—youngest of five children of Efren, a former tricycle driver, and Liwayway, a sari-sari store owner in Lipa City—earned his third and final Grandmaster result Thursday.

"Good karma," said Laylo, a business management graduate from San Sebastian College who is an Army private first class. "*Naging challenge sa akin ang suspensyon ko* (My suspension served as a challenge to me)."

Laylo, the National Open champion in 2004 and 2006, will officially become the country's seventh GM after Eugene Torre, the late Rosendo Balinas Jr., Rogelio "Joey" Antonio, Bong Villamayor, Mark Paragua and Nelson Mariano duing the World Chess Federation (Fide) Congress, set Nov. 10-17, in Turkey.

"It's been my dream to become a GM," said Laylo, who learned to play the game from an uncle at five. "I didn't know that it will come this soon. God listened to my prayers."

It was indeed a fast climb to the top for Laylo, who became an IM only last year and earned his first two GM results in the Malaysian Open in August and the Bad Wiesse Open in Germany in October. *Roy Luarca*

Archers rip 8 RP marks; Javier books Olympic slot

EIGHT NEW PHILIPPINE RECORDS IN compound and recurve were established and two others were equaled in the recent 15th Asian Archery Championships in Xian, China.

Five of the marks were set and one was tied in the compound division, where Earl Yap and the women's team of Jennifer Chan, Abbigail Tindugan and Amaya Paz bagged a gold medal each while the rest were recorded in the recurve.

Chan tied the 117-point mark set by Paz in Febuary 2006 in the 12-arrow final match in women's compound while Javier matched the 323 posted by Clint Sayo in the Singapore SEA Games in 1993 in the men's 36 final match.

Mark Javier became the lone Filipino qualifier to the Beijing Olympics next year.

Javier defeated India's Mangal Singh, 111-107, to rule the Continental Qualification Tournament. He ousted Singapore's Bensong Ong, 112-99, Japan's Assiano Ryota, 104-102, (quarterfinals) and Malaysia's Wan Mohdkhamimizab Ab Aziz, 107-106 (semifinals).

The new compound marks follow:

677 points by Chan in women's Fita 70 meters, surpassing the 675 of Paz set in Febuary 2005 in Bangkok; 2010 by the women's team of Chan, Tindugan and Paz in the 70m team qualification round (old mark of 1968 was set by Chan, Paz and Joann Tabaña in February 2005, Bangkok); 227 by Tindugan, Chan and Paz in the 4x6 women's team match event (old mark of 222 was set by Paz, Tindugan, Chan and Tabanag in September 2006 in Shanghai); 450 by Tindugan, Chan and Paz in 2x24 women's team match event (old mark of 421 was set by Paz, Tindugan, Chan and Tabanad in September 2006); and 350 by Yap in men's 70m (old mark of 345 was set by Yap set in July 2006 in Kuala Lumpur).

The new recurve records follow:

652 points by Mark Javier in Fita 70-meter men's division surpassing the 633 set by Florante Matan and Marvin Cordero in 2004 and 2003 in Bangkok; 1934 by Javier, Matan and Cordero in Fita 70-m team qualification round (old mark is 1850 by Matan, Nerickzom Fraginal and Cordero set in 2004 in Bangkok); and 217 by Javier, Cordero and Matan in 4x6 men's team event (old mark is 197 set by Javier, Paul Marton dela Cruz, Christian Cubilla and Renato Bartolome in Kuala Lumpur in 2006).

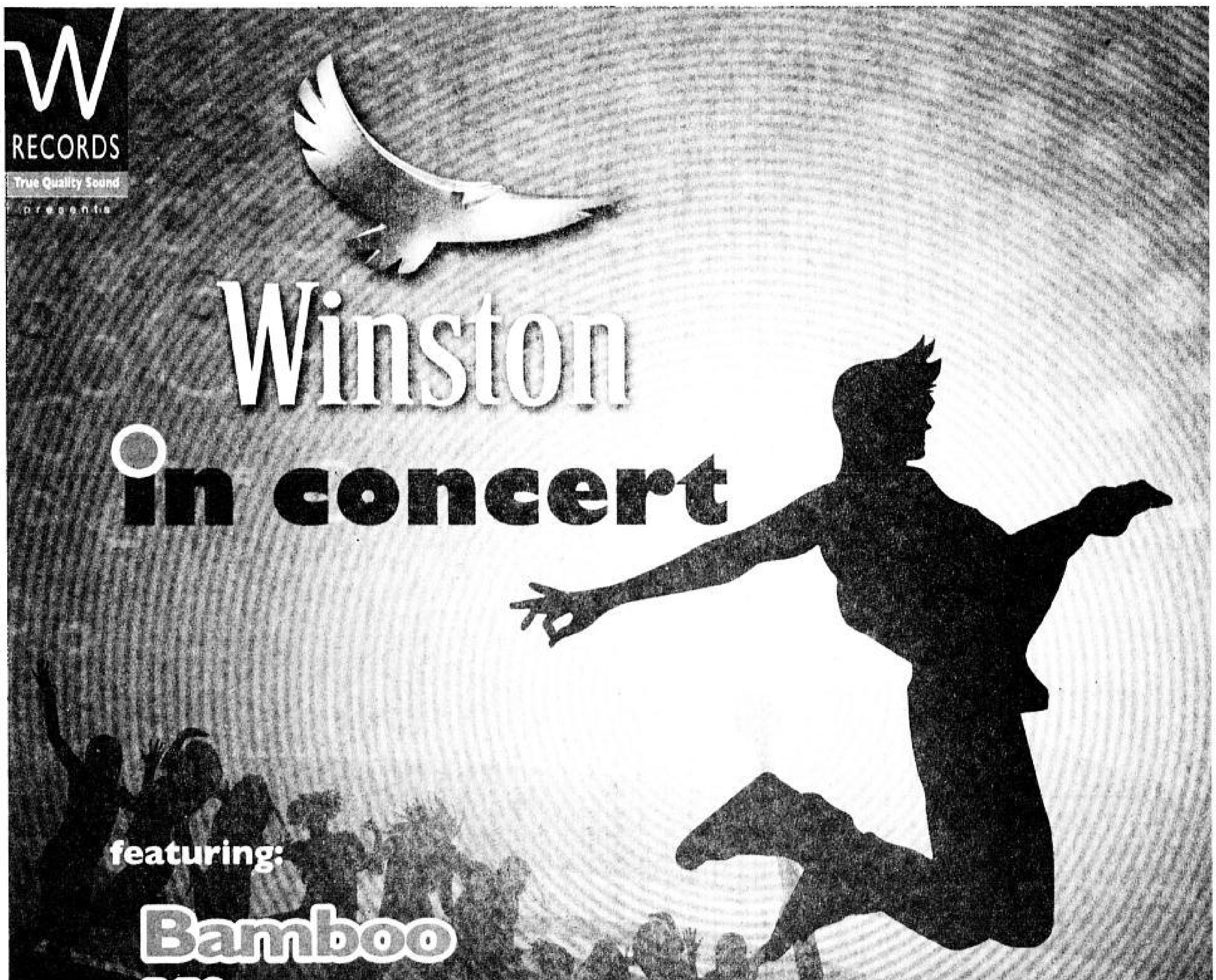
Masters Challenge on today at S'woods

THE MANILA SOUTHWOODS LADIES CHAPTER is hosting the 11th Masters Challenge, a fund-raising program for the group's annual medical mission, today at the Manila Southwoods Golf and Country Club in Carmona, Cavite.

Manila Southwoods chair Robert John Sobrepeña will lead the ceremonial tee-off in the morning then join 144 players in the hunt for the individual trophies and other prizes at stake.

In addition, Pacsports-Nike Golf will be sponsoring a pitching contest for the early registrants before the shotgun tee-off at 8:30 a.m.

A Chery Car from Autohub Group, a South Sea Pearl Jewelry set from Jewelmer, a cruise from Royal Caribbean International and a three-day in Boracay's Asya Resort are the hole-in-one prizes.



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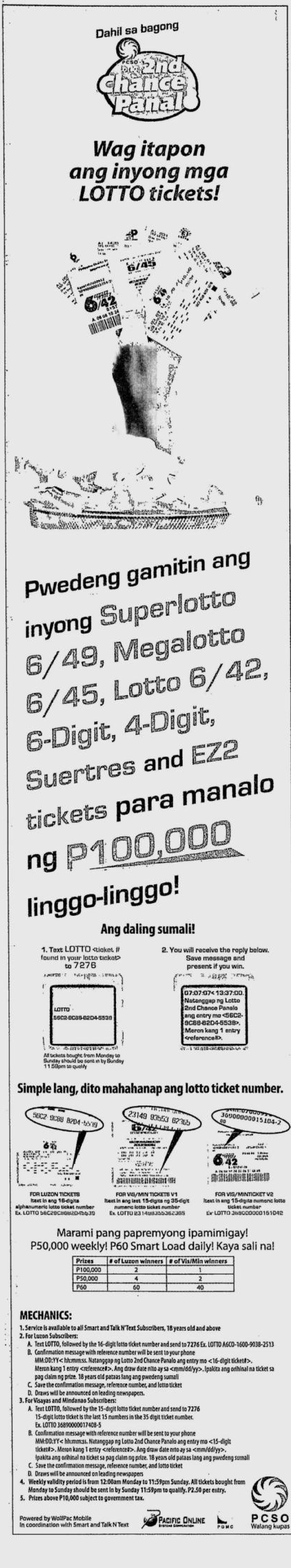

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Ex. LOTTO 56C29C8682D45539

FOR VIS/MIN TICKETS V1
text in ang last 15-digits ng 35-digit numeric lotto ticket number
Ex. LOTTO 231498355362365

FOR VIS/MINTICKET V2
text in ang 15-digits numeric lotto ticket number
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Prizes	# of Luzon winners	# of Vis/Min winners
P100,000	2	1
P50,000	4	2
P60	60	40

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2. For Luzon Subscribers:
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   C. Save the confirmation message, reference number, and lotto ticket
   D. Draws will be announced on leading newspapers.
3. For Visayas and Mindanao Subscribers:
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   B. Confirmation message with reference number will be sent to your phone MM:DD:YY< hh:mm:ss. Natanggap ng Lotto 2nd Chance Panalo ang entry mo <15-digit ticket#>. Meron kang 1 entry <reference#>. Ang draw date nito ay sa <mm/dd/yy>. Ipakita ang orihinal na ticket sa pag claim ng prize. 18 years old pataas lang ang pwedeng sumali
   C. Save the confirmation message, reference number, and lotto ticket
   D. Draws will be announced on leading newspapers
4. Weekly validity period is from 12:00am Monday to 11:59pm Sunday. All tickets bought from Monday to Sunday should be sent in by Sunday 11:59pm to qualify. P2.50 per entry.
5. Prizes above P10,000 subject to government tax.

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SPORTS

Injured Roddick pulls out of Thailand Open

BANGKOK, THAILAND—ANDY RODDICK WITHDREW WITH A FOOT injury and Tomas Berdych beat local Kittipong Wachiramanowong, 6-3, 6-0, Wednesday at the Thailand Open. Roddick injured his foot during practice Tuesday and pulled out of his match against Wang Yeu-tzuoo. *AP*

Yanks make playoffs

Oust defending AL champion Detroit

ST. PETERSBURG, FLA—CHAMPAGNE FLOWED. Joe Torre cried. The New York Yankees whooped it up.

Celebrating clinching wins never gets old, even when you've made the postseason for 13 seasons in a row.

Torre shed tears Wednesday night after the Yankees clinched at least a wild-card berth with a 12-4 victory over the Tampa Bay Devil Rays that capped a comeback from a huge early season deficit.

"Who knows? This could be his last time in," center fielder Johnny Damon said. "We're hoping not. You have to savor every moment. Enjoy it. The team we have now, where we came from, being way back, we couldn't be happier. We have a World Series to win, but this thing is really special."

Elated owner George Steinbrenner even got into the act, making a rare ballpark appearance. He kicked off the celebration when he moved to the front row of his private suite, where he could interact with fans.

The victory, New York's 15th in 20 games, eliminated defending AL champion Detroit from postseason contention and set up a probable first-round match-up with Cleveland, the Central champion. The Yankees are three games behind Boston with four games left, so New York's streak of nine consecutive AL East titles is likely to end.

New York, just 21-29 before play on May 30, has gone 70-38 since then. Players, from Derek Jeter and Alex Rodriguez, to Joba Chamberlain and Mariano Rivera, hugged each other on the field and in the dugout following the final out.

"This is what it was about. It was a lot of unselfishness," Torre said. "There were a lot of guys who played through some injuries, played through some fatigue. And, of course, Alex—we sort of rallied around him."

The Yankees have made the playoffs every year since 1995, and their streak of 13 consecutive trips is one shy of the record set by the Atlanta Braves from 1991-2005. They've made the postseason in all 12 seasons under Torre. *AP*

Giants unload Bonds

SAN FRANCISCO—BARRY Bonds played his final home game as a San Francisco Giant on Wednesday, but the San Diego Padres stole the thunder from baseball's home run king.

The Padres remained at the forefront of the National League wild card race by rolling to an 11-3 victory in the Giants' last home game of the season, which drew a sellout crowd of 42,926.

The fans were treated to highlights from the seven-time NL Most Valuable Player Bonds on the scoreboard between innings.

Bonds went 0-for-3 on the night. He did give the crowd one more thrill when he slammed a 2-0 pitch to deep right-center, but it did not have the distance as Brady Clark gloved it on the warning track to end the sixth. *AFP*

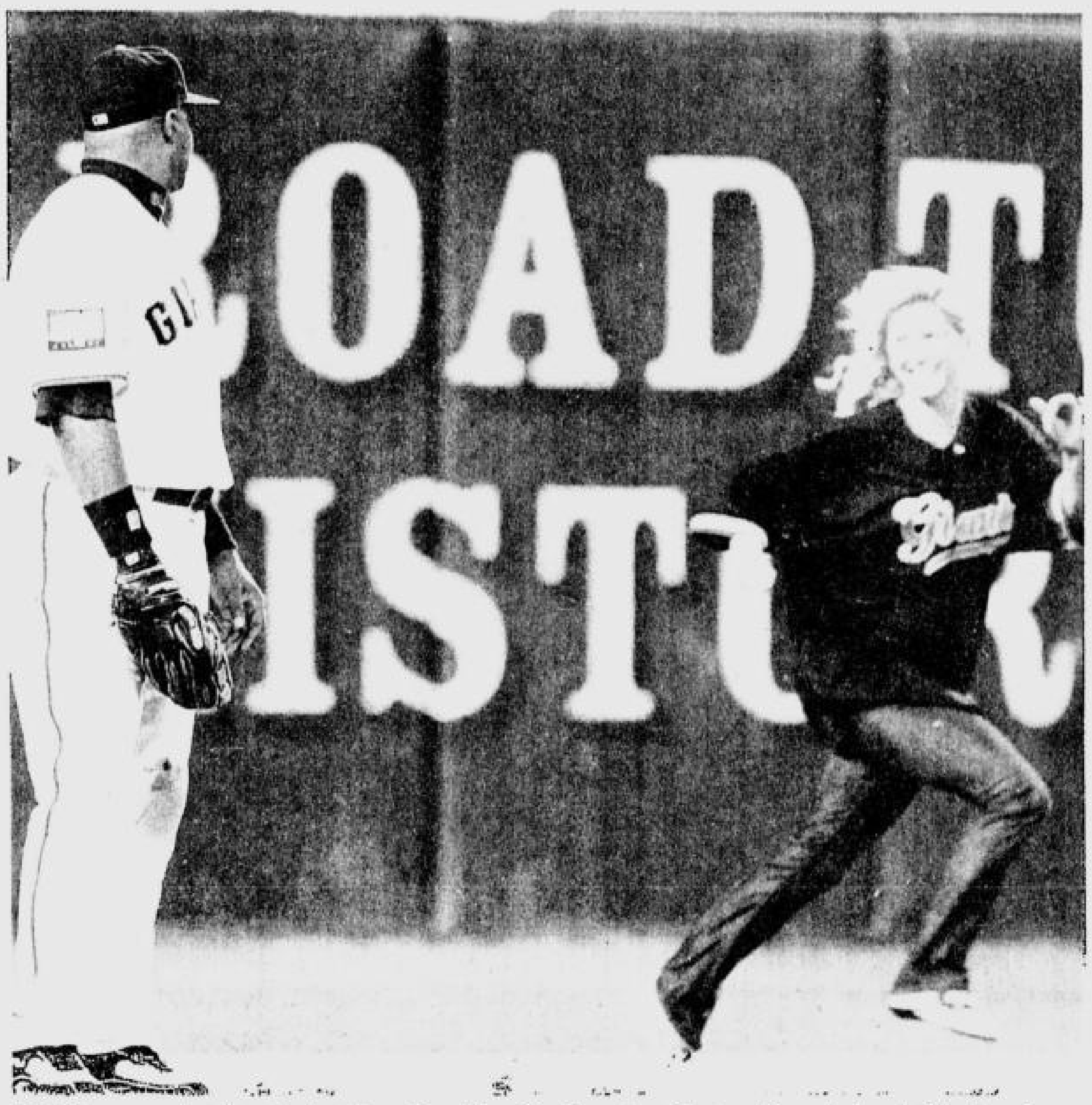
MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Boston Red Sox (1)	94	64	.595	--
x-New York Yankees	91	67	.576	3.0
Toronto Blue Jays	81	77	.513	13.0
Baltimore Orioles	67	91	.424	27.0
Tampa Bay Devil Rays	65	93	.411	29.0
Central	**W**	**L**	**Pct**	**GB**
y-Cleveland Indians	94	64	.595	--
Detroit Tigers	87	72	.547	7.5
Minnesota Twins	77	81	.487	17.0
Chicago White Sox	69	89	.437	25.0
Kansas City Royals	68	90	.430	26.0
West	**W**	**L**	**Pct**	**GB**
y-Los Angeles Angels	92	67	.579	--
Seattle Mariners	84	74	.532	7.5
Oakland Athletics	75	84	.472	17.0
Texas Rangers	75	84	.472	17.0

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East	W	L	Pct	GB
New York Mets (4)	87	71	.551	--
Philadelphia Phillies	86	72	.544	1.0
Atlanta Braves	83	75	.525	4.0
Washington Nationals	72	87	.453	15.5
Florida Marlins	68	90	.430	19.0
Central	**W**	**L**	**Pct**	**GB**
Chicago Cubs (3)	83	75	.525	--
Milwaukee Brewers	81	77	.513	2.0
St. Louis Cardinals	74	84	.468	9.0
Cincinnati Reds	71	87	.449	12.0
Houston Astros	70	88	.443	13.0
Pittsburgh Pirates	68	90	.430	15.0
West	**W**	**L**	**Pct**	**GB**
Arizona Diamondbacks (4)	88	70	.557	--
San Diego Padres	87	71	.551	1.0
Colorado Rockies	86	72	.544	2.0
Los Angeles Dodgers	80	78	.506	8.0
San Francisco Giants	70	89	.440	18.5

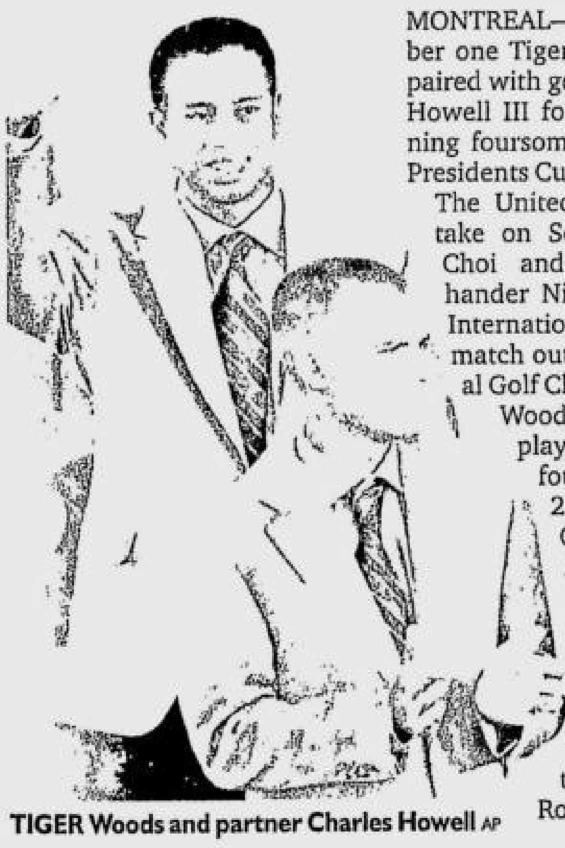


A FAN gets one last close look at Barry Bonds in a San Francisco Giants uniform in the sixth inning of a match against the San Diego Padres. Three security guards led the woman out of the field. AFP

Marion tells Suns: Release me, let me go

PHOENIX—PHOENIX SUNS FORward Shawn Marion, the team's highest-paid player and a four-time All-Star, says he wants to be traded after eight years with the club. He said he decided to ask to leave because the team considered trading him over the summer and won't talk about a contract extension. "I'm tired of hearing my name in trades," said Marion, who has two years left on his contract, which will net him $16.4 million this season. *AP*

Woods-Howell pair opens 7th Presidents Cup battle



TIGER Woods and partner Charles Howell AP

MONTREAL—WORLD NUMber one Tiger Woods has been paired with good friend Charles Howell III for Thursday's opening foursomes at the seventh Presidents Cup.

The United States duo will take on South Korea's K.J. Choi and Australian left-hander Nick O'Hern of the Internationals in the last match out at Royal Montreal Golf Club.

Woods and Howell played together on four occasions at the 2003 Presidents Cup in South Africa, winning twice and losing twice.

"He's a great partner to have because we are friends," Howell told reporters at Royal Montreal. "Maybe in a sense I see Tiger in a little different light. I see him a little bit away from the golf course."

Howell has struggled for consistency on the 2007 PGA Tour after a storming start that featured a victory at the Nissan Open.

"I felt like if somebody was going to pull Charles up, it would be Tiger," said US captain Jack Nicklaus

Woods' performances at four Presidents Cups do not reflect his status as perhaps the greatest player in history with a win-loss-half record of 10-9-1.

He has especially struggled in the fourball format where he is an uninspiring 2-6-0.

"When you play poorly in this event it is different than what we do every week because, if anything, you just let down yourself and your family and that's about it," Woods said. *Reuters*

Winless Japan exits Rugby W. Cup

BORDEAUX—JAPAN BOWED out of the World Cup without winning a game but confident it had provided a lasting legacy for the future of Asian rugby.

Japan is bidding to bring the World Cup to Asia in 2015 and while it failed to win a match in France, it was far from disgraced and hope its performances will be enough to convince the International Rugby Board to let it host the tournament.

In Saint-Etienne, Samoa ended a five-match losing streak by beating United States, 25-21, in its final Group A match.

Samoa, which made the quarterfinals in 1991 and '95, lost its last two games in 2003 and its first three in '07.

In Lens, Georgia romped to its first World Cup victory with a 30-0 triumph over Namibia to make sure it won't finish last in Group D. *Inquirer Wires*

Beckham goes home

LONDON—ENGLISH FOOTBALL icon David Beckham was heading home from Los Angeles after his father suffered a serious heart attack in London. Ted Beckham, 59, was being treated in a London hospital after being taken ill late Wednesday. The former England captain and family moved to California in July when Beckham joined the LA Galaxy club. *AFP*

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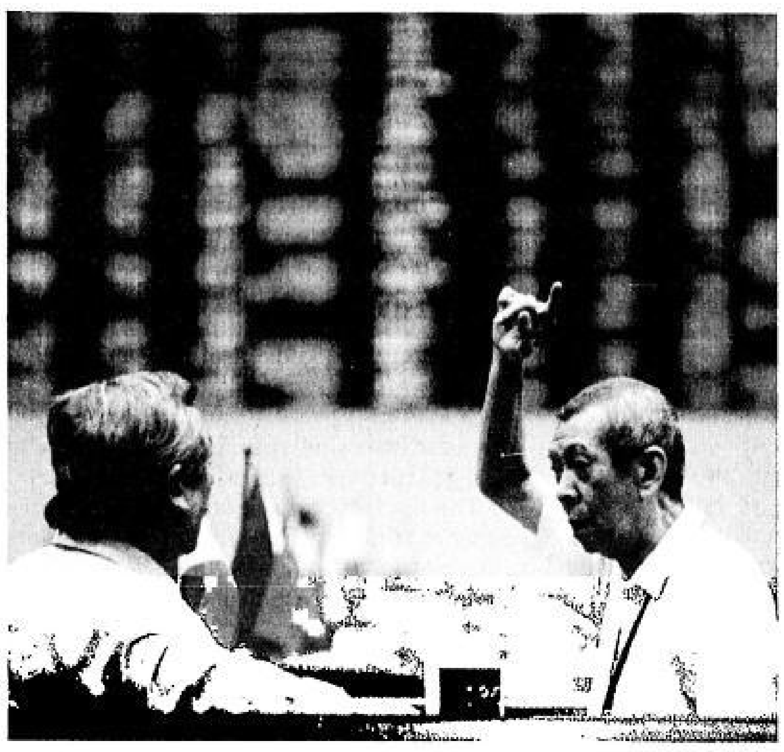
Stocks rally to 8-week high



BROKERS discuss the day's trade on the floor of the Philippine Stock Exchange in Makati City. Stock markets across Asia yesterday logged record highs with financial stocks leading and the dollar steadying amid signs of stabilization in money and credit markets. REUTERS

Across Asia, stock markets powered to record peaks

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

THE STOCK MARKET surged to its highest close in eight weeks, buoyed by bets of another US interest rate cut after US consumer durable goods declined in August, rekindling worries over an economic slowdown in the United States.

The Philippine Stock Exchange index surged 101.76 points or 2.92 percent to 3,577.51.

This was the index's highest level since July 27 when it finished at 3,518.76, data from the PSE showed.

The peso yesterday strengthened to 45.01 against the dollar, according to the Philippine Dealing & Exchange Corp. Last Wesdnesday, the peso closed at 45.17.

All sectors rallied, with Wall Street's overnight gains and positive economic indicators here also boosting investor confidence, dealers said.

The broader all-shares market rose 2.76 percent or 59.8 points to 2,222.80. Among sectors, the property index posted the biggest gains at 4.57 percent yesterday, or 70.2 points

STOCKS/ B2

INDICATORS

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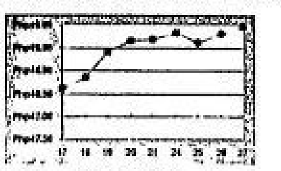


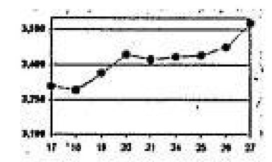
SEPTEMBER

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱45.01 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Sept. 27, 2007

STOCK MARKET



(See stock market report on Page B7)

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World Bank to jack up loan to RP

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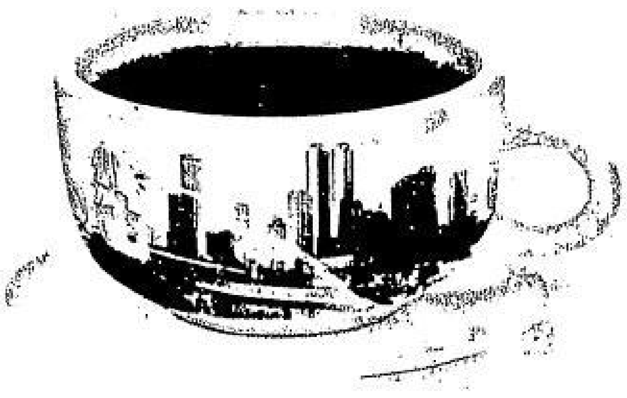
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Senate to look into Pall Mall tax matter

Solon says agency ought to collect, not forego, revenue

By Michelle V. Remo

THE SENATE WILL CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION into allegations of corruption, involving the decision of the Department of Finance to impose a lower excise tax on British American Tobacco's Pall Mall cigarettes.

Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile said that he, together with Sen. Francis Escudero III, would lead the Senate in conducting the inquiry, the schedule of which has yet to be determined.

"What you should do is to make an interpretation of the law that is in favor of revenue collection and not revenue foregoing," Enrile told DOF officials yesterday during a hearing on the proposed DOF budget for 2008.

Enrile was referring to the Sin Tax law of 2005, which prohibits a reclassification of a cigarette brand into a lower tax bracket. Pall Mall has been paying a tax of P6.74 per pack.

The Bureau of Internal Revenue issued a ruling in February raising the tax rate on Pall Mall to P26 per pack. The increase in the tax, however, was not implemented because the DOF, mother agency of the BIR, immediately reversed the ruling in response to an appeal made by British American Tobacco.

The BIR had said the higher tax rate should apply because Pall Mall was being imported by duty-free shops. Under the Sin Tax law, imported cigarettes are levied the highest excise tax rate to offset the revenue loss arising from their duty exemption.

But BAT said domestically produced Pall Mall were already in the market, even before duty-free shops started importing the brand. BAT also said the importation of Pall Mall ended last year. These arguments helped BAT win the favor of the DOF. But Enrile said the DOF's decision did not reflect its mandate to help increase the government's tax collection.

"Why did you (DOF) not let them (BAT) go to court and question the BIR ruling, instead of doing an administrative effort to reduce your tax take?" Enrile asked.

The senator stressed that the Sin Tax law prohibits the downward tax reclassification of a cigarette brand precisely to prevent manufacturers from engaging in market maneuvering and evade paying higher taxes.

Competitors of BAT said the decision of the DOF would confuse the excise tax system if Pall Mall cigarettes are again imported. The competitors—including Philip Morris, Fortune Tobacco, Japan Tobacco International and Anglo-American Tobacco—appealed to the DOF to reconsider its decision.

EDC draws up wish list of laws

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE EXPORT DEVELOPMENT Council on Wednesday pushed for a wish list of new laws that would help exporters sustain growth and ward off threats to their competitiveness amid a strong peso.

Trade Secretary Peter B. Favila, who chairs the EDC where the private sector is represented, said that while Malacañang has taken efforts to support local exporters, decisive measures to address the sector's concerns still lay in the hands of Congress.

Speaking before a general membership meeting of the Philippine Exporters Confederation, Favila said the EDC was urging Congress to act on four measures that would benefit exporters.

These include a law that amends Republic Act No. 6977, or the Magna Carta for Small Enterprises.

Proposed amendments pending in both the Senate and the House of Representatives cover the adoption of more specific definitions of micro, small and medium enterprises, which would increase the mandatory allocation of lending to MSMEs.

Currently, micro enterprises are defined as those with total assets of up to P3 million; small ones, with total assets between P3 million and P15 million; and medium ones, P15 million to P100 million.

Other proposed changes to the magna carta provide for enhanced support from government agencies and the formalization of the MSME Development Plan; organizational and financial strengthening of the Small Business and Guarantee Finance Corp.; and limiting the means by which banks could avoid compliance with the requirement to lend to MSMEs.

Favila said another law that the EDC was pushing for was one that puts up an Omnibus Maritime Code which would ensure that comprehensive action of various government and private sectors concerned would be coordinated.

He explained that an OMC would drive down the cost of exporting from the Philippines, which are "at a high end" compared to costs incurred in other capital cities of Southeast Asia.

A third law in the EDC's wish list is one that amends certain provisions of Presidential Decree No. 1464 or the Tariff Code.

Favila said the EDC has recommended changes to the Tariff Code that would help curb smuggling.

Finally, he said the EDC was urging Congress to ratify the Revised Kyoto Convention, which serves as a guide on best practices that promote improvements in the procedures and controls governing the movement of goods across borders.

"I call on industry associations to support the EDC's legislative blueprint by studying these proposed laws and help (us) prepare policy briefs," Favila said.

Canadian firm reports positive mine prospects

By Amy R. Remo

CANADIAN MINING FIRM OLYMPUS PAcific Minerals Inc. has completed due diligence of its Capcapo Project in the Baguio-Mankayan Gold district.

The Baguio-Mankayan mine reportedly holds some 60 million ounces of historic production and current resources.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, Abra Mining and Industrial Corp said its partner, Olympus, found the due diligence drilling program "encouraging."

It added that "geologists believe there is a potential for a significant discovery at the Capcapo gold property," which was earlier found to have similarities, in terms of copper and gold deposits, with the Baguio mine.

The disclosure also stated that Olympus is set to complete formal joint venture documentation as well as fulfill its legal, social and community responsibilities.

Abra added that Olympus will continue exploration drilling once all outstanding agreements and legal parameters are signed with various stakeholders.

For 2007, Olympus' projects consisted of step-out drilling designed to expand the mineralized zone, as well as ground exploration programs to test other prospective areas on the 43-square-kilometer Capcapo property.

Seipi seeks reduction of royalties on natural gas

By Abigail L. Ho

THE SEMICONDUCTOR AND ELECtronics Industries of the Philippines Inc. (Seipi) is urging the government to reduce royalties imposed on natural gas, explaining that this will ultimately lead to lower power rates.

Seipi chair Arthur Young said the current royalties scheme was skewed in a way that favored coal-fired power generation over gas-fired power production, which used indigenous gas from the Malampaya Deep Water Gas-to-Power Project in offshore Palawan.

"It's too expensive, the royalties imposed on natural gas," Young said. "And this is considering that the government is pushing the use of indigenous fuel. The royalty tax on coal is much lower, even if it's an imported fuel. The tax for natural gas should be lower."

He said lower royalties on natural gas should also translate to lower power rates, particularly in Luzon, since the country's three gas-fired power plants were supplying some of the supply requirements of the Manila Electric Co., the country's largest distribution utility.

"The royalties represent a significant amount that could be given back to industries in the form of lower power rates," he said. "We've already proposed (the lowering of royalties on natural gas) and we continue to discuss this. We understand that this will be a big revenue loss to the government, but there may be ways to balance this out."

Former Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla had said late last year that the government was looking at reducing royalties imposed on natural gas, with the objective of bringing down power rates for consumers.

He said the country currently imposes "more generous" natural gas royalties compared to its neighbors in Southeast Asia.

"Nevertheless, we will continue to look at those numbers and we will have to coordinate with the Department of Finance regarding the possible reduction of the royalties," he said. "If ever, we want to make sure that there is direct reduction for the consumers and that it will be a significant one."

Stocks rally to 8-week high

From page B1

to 1,606.20.

Value turnover reached P5.9 billion. There were 96 gainers and 25 losers, while 47 stocks remained flat.

According to Eagle Equities president Joseph Roxas, speculation is rife that there may be another round of interest rate cuts when the US Fed holds its policy meeting in October.

"The market is betting another 25-basis-point cut," Roxas said.

Across Asia, stock markets yesterday also powered to record highs, with financial stocks leading a 2.4-percent gain in Tokyo, while the dollar steadied amid signs of stabilization in money and credit markets.

"The whole credit crisis is a dim and distant memory in most investors' minds," said Brian Eley of Eley Griffiths Group Pty Ltd. in Sydney. Not that the problems have gone away, but the fear of the problems has gone away."

The MSCI's broadest index of Asian markets outside Japan rose 1.7 percent to a life high and has risen by a third this year. *With reports from Reuters, AFP, AP*

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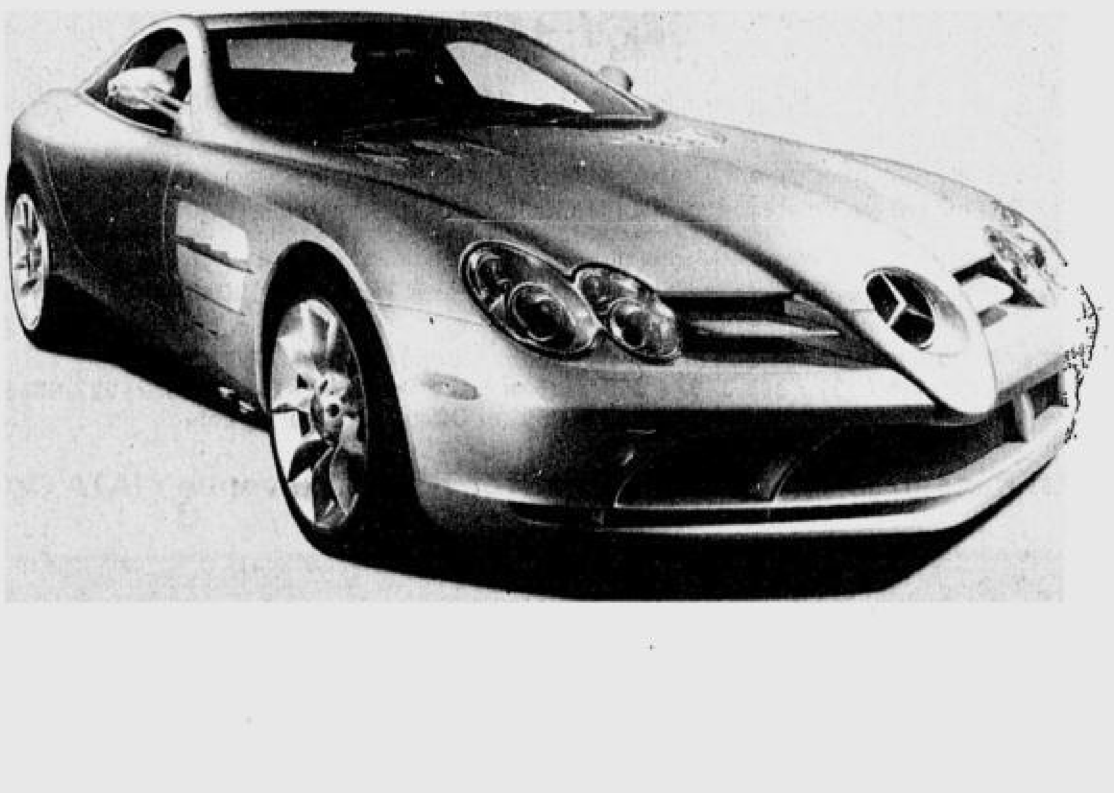

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World Bank to jack up loan to RP

From $1.7B, package may be raised to $2.2B for '08-'09

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE WORLD BANK GROUP IS WILLING TO jack up its lending to the Philippines for the next two years to as much as $2.2 billion to help ease the country's infrastructure bottlenecks.

The increase from the earlier package of only $1.7 billion lending package for 2008 to 2009 is, however, premised on the continued implementation of fiscal reforms.

"The stakes are now higher—to meet demand and encourage the government to stay the course on reforms will require an increased lending envelope, as well as more ambitious results milestones," the bank said in its latest progress report on the Philippines.

The World Bank, however, also warned in the same report that the amount could fall to as low as $800 million, if the government would backtrack on its reform efforts.

The basis for a reduced lending would be:

- a substantial widening in the fiscal deficit;
- decline in tax effort, and
- limited progress in other key policy areas.

The loan increase, the World Bank said, sought to address the need for higher public investment, especially in infrastructure, in order to attain higher economic growth and boost the country's competitiveness.

The $2.2-billion package will include $800 million up to $1 billion in additional development policy lending (DPL), a quick-disbursing fiscal support facility.

Two new DPLs are planned by the World Bank to support fiscal consolidation and improved governance, as well as an improved investment climate.

It said the DPLs would focus on ensuring that sound fiscal policy would be maintained and institutional reforms deepened in the revenue collecting agencies, public expenditure management and the fiduciary environment. They would also support measures to strengthen infrastructure, the business-enabling environment and competition.

"The increase in envisaged lending will demonstrate that the bank is able to quickly respond and scale up commitments to an environment of improved fiscal management and credit-worthiness," the report said.

It said lending volumes would remain tied to fiscal performance, whereas the composition of lending would be determined on the basis of reform intensity in different policy areas.

"Strong governance filters will imply that only those operations with adequate governance and anticorruption safeguards will be considered under the program," the report said.

WORLD/ B7

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Marina rejects settlement offer from Nenaco

By Riza T. Olchondra

THE MARITIME INDUSTRY AUTHORITY (Marina) stood firm on its demand for debt-ridden Negros Navigation Co. Inc. to pay its P39-million annual supervision fees (ASF).

"We are clear and firm on this. The unpaid fees are taxes, not debts. You can't restructure taxes," Marina administrator Vic Suazo told the INQUIRER.

Nenaco has started defaulting on its ASF payments in 1998.

It has been offering a settlement agreement covering only P25.969 million, which became the principal after the shipping firm paid P6.37 million in 2003.

The amount of arrears has ballooned to P39.165 since then.

However, the Marina said entering a settlement deal would run counter to the agency's position that the unpaid ASFs were considered taxes and not debts that could be restructured.

It may be recalled that Nenaco went into rehabilitation in 2004, when it owed various creditors and suppliers P2.4 billion for services and supplies received.

Based on documents which Nenaco submitted to the rehabilitation court, out of the P2.4-billion debt of the shipping firm, the company had unpaid taxes of more than P440 million.

Nenaco corporate communication chief Gian Galvez declined to comment on Marina's stand.

PRCI minority owners welcome court ruling

MINORITY SHAREHOLDERS OF PHILIPpine Racing Club Inc. (PRCI) welcomed the decision of the Court of Appeals junking the petition of a Malaysian-led faction in the firm's board for an order that would stop the Makati Regional Trial Court from pursuing a case against the said group.

In a recent decision, the Fifth Divison of the CA dismissed a petition filed by the group led by Santiago Cua Sr. a.k.a. Cua Sing Huan, and sons Santiago Jr., Solomon and Simeon for lack of merit and for being moot and premature.

The group asked the CA to nullify a temporary restraining order issued by the Makati RTC and to dismiss the derivative suit filed by the minority shareholders against the majority shareholders.

In a statement, lawyer Brigido Dulay, PRCI director and the spokesman for the minority shareholders, said the CA decision "is a vindication of the Filipino shareholders' position that the case filed in the Makati RTC is not a nuisance or harassment suit."

PRCI/ B7

Paref holds business meet

PARENTS FOR EDUCATION FOUNDATION Inc. (Paref) will be holding its fifth annual business conference today at the Makati Sports Club. The theme of this year's conference is "Leadership: The Key to Rising Above the Limitations and to Inspiring People Toward Sustainable Growth."

The conference, which aims to sustain delivery of quality basic education, is a yearly gathering of leaders and officers of the various schools and entities affiliated with Paref.

Jesus P. Estanislao, chair of the Institute of Corporate Directorship (ICD), will be the keynote speaker. Other speakers known in business and academe are former BIR regional director Ruperto P. Somera, Roberto T. Borromeo and Eduardo "Ned" Roberto. Master facilitator will be Omar Cruz (former national treasurer).

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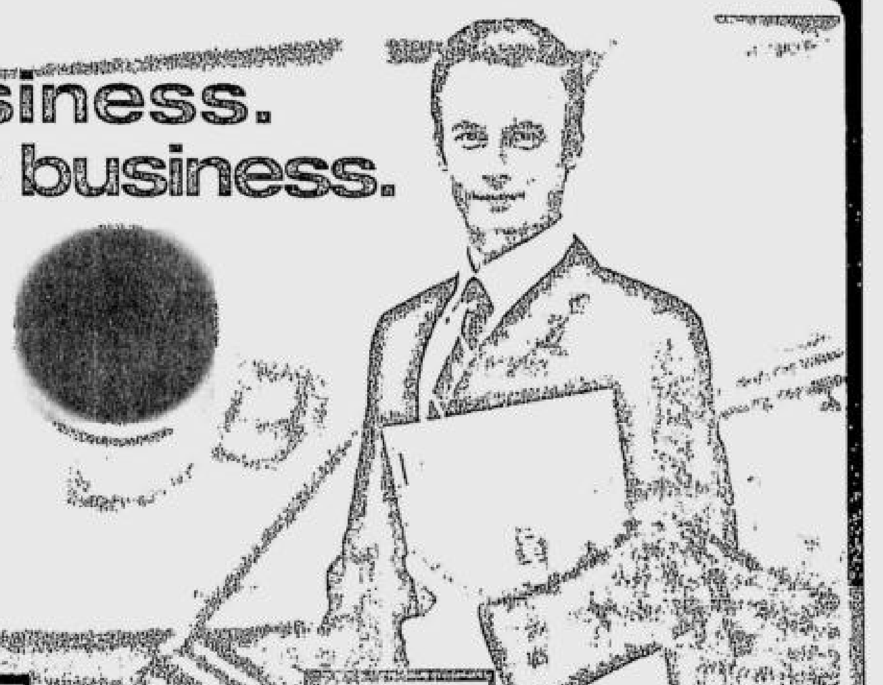

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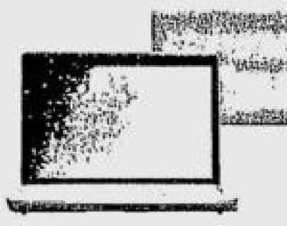

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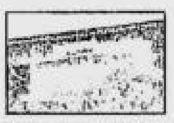

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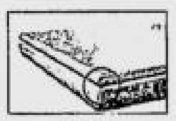

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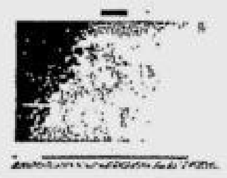

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Saudi pledges help for halal certification

By Judy Quiros
Inquirer Mindanao

DAVAO CITY—A SAUDI BUSINESSMAN engaged in the trading of food products has pledged to help Mindanao poultry and meat industry players secure halal certification.

Vicente Lao, chair of the Mindanao Business Council (MinBC), said in a briefing here that Shiek Faeyez Hamed Zainy had also pledged to bring in halal process experts from Saudi Arabia in November.

Zainy, who owns the Abbar & Zainy Corp., said that the experts are also involved in the issuance of halal certificates in the oil-rich kingdom, according to Lao.

"The said personalities are the ones who are issuing halal certification in [Saudi Arabia]," Lao said. "If they approve the halal certification procedure in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), Abbar & Zainy Corp. will buy halal products from here."

Lao said Zainy would talk with the Saudi ambassador about his plan to bring halal experts to the Philippines. "Zainy assured [us that he will help] solve the [halal certification] problem in three months," Lao added.

Mindanao businessmen engaged in poultry and cattle processing have not been able to tap the halal market because they lacked the certification, which would prove that their products were prepared in accordance with Muslim standards.

Only products certified as halal are deemed "permissible" for devout Muslims to consume.

Lao said Zainy's efforts to help Mindanao animal growers get halal certification could help boost the island's poultry and meat industry.

He added that it is a good time for the export business because Mindanao has not been hit by bird flu, unlike other Asian countries.

Wind farms eyed for Catanduanes town

VIRAC, CATANDUANES—The local government of San Andres in the island province of Catanduanes has joined the race to develop renewable energy resources through its proposed development of a wind farm in Barangay Agojo.

Mayor Leo Z. Mendoza signed last Sept. 5 a memorandum of agreement with Linkpoint-Europe, a Spanish wind power company with an office in China, and PhilCarbon Inc., which will undertake the feasibility study for the multimillion-peso project.

Linkpoint-Europe was represented by its managing partner, Juan Gutierrez Canseco, while San Andres-born lawyer Jose G. Samonte signed on behalf of PhilCarbon as its president.

The brief signing ceremony at the municipal hall was witnessed by PhilCarbon partner Robert Owen, Vice Mayor Alan del Valle and members of the Sangguniang Bayan.

With the deal, the municipality and its partners are the fourth entity to seriously consider development of renewable power sources on the island.

The First Catanduanes Electric Cooperative Inc. (Ficelco) is already in the late stages of securing government approval for its proposal to develop the 3.5-megawatt minihydroelectric plant in Barangay Dugui Too in the hinterlands of the capital town.

The Sunwest Water and Electricity Co. is also interested in putting up six similar plants, two of which are expected to be on stream by 2012.

On the other hand, the provincial government headed by Governor Joseph C. Cua, who is a brother-in-law of Mendoza, is reportedly bent on the so-called Boctot Water and Power Development Project, also in Virac.

This entails the construction of two hydro-power plants in upland Virac and the use of the water to supply the needs of Virac and the nearby towns of Bato and San Miguel.

Mendoza said that, under the agreement, the three parties signified their intent to develop, finance, design, construct and operate a wind farm facility.

The technical and financial viability of the project will be determined within 18 months, during which the municipality will apply for a grant with the Fondo de Estudios de Viabilidad, a credit facility of the Fonde de Ayuda al Desarollo of the Spanish government.

Linkpoint will advise the municipality on complying with the grant conditionalities and interfacing with the Spanish Ministry of Industry, if needed. *Fernan Gianan, Inquirer Southern Luzon Bureau*

IF FOUND FEASIBLE, another wind power
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Vigilance, victory and de

COMMENTARY

By Ernesto M. Ordoñez

VIGILANCE MAY RESULT IN VICTORY, and lack of it often leads to defeat.

This happened in the antismuggling fight waged by the farmers. It may happen again in the next two weeks at the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Antismuggling

Vigilant farmer leaders, such as John Kim and Alfred Alangdeo, spearheaded antismuggling efforts, which resulted in the decrease of smuggling rate in Metro Manila from 40 percent to 1 percent.

Subsequently, Alyansa Agrikultura, the largest farmer-fisherfolk coalition, of which Kim and Alangdeo are part of, became one of two permanent private sector representatives in the Cabinet Oversight Committee on Anti-Smuggling (Cocas).

They succeeded in making the Inward Forward Manifest (IFM) available to the Department of Agriculture (DA), the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), and other private sector representatives.

The IFM lists the products being imported, the ship being used, and date of arrival. Previously, only the Bureau of Customs (BOC) had access to the list. But through the farm leaders efforts, the IFM became available to other parties.

Armed with the information culled from the IFM, the Cocas under then DILG Secretary Angelo Reyes achieved "the most dramatic and successful antismuggling results in the last 20 years," according to Federation of Philippine Industries president Jess Arranza.

But after a while, the private sector partners relaxed their vigilance and soon, without warning, the Cocas was abolished.

IFM access was again limited to the BOC. Predictably, smuggling activities again increased, causing our government to lose an estimated P80 billion in foregone revenue.

When asked if procedures, such as the destruction of smuggled cars, were effective in the campaign against smuggling, many advocates would say, "crushing a few cars is not the answer ... it's the IFM, stupid!"

But perhaps the antismuggling advocates were partly to blame. They were not vigilant enough to prevent the termination of access to the IFM.

During the past week, we called on DA and DTI officials, who confirmed that neither agencies had access to the IFM. This has been going on for over three years now.

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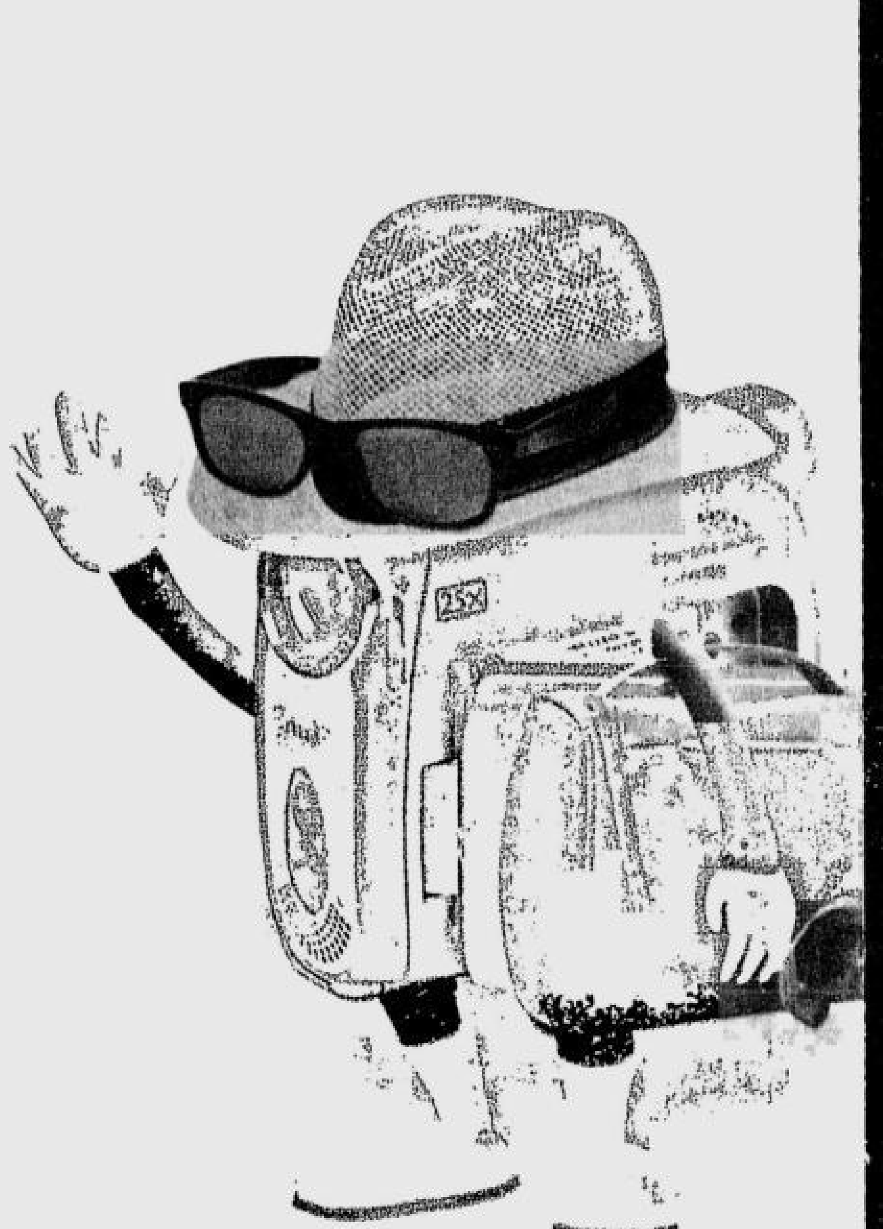

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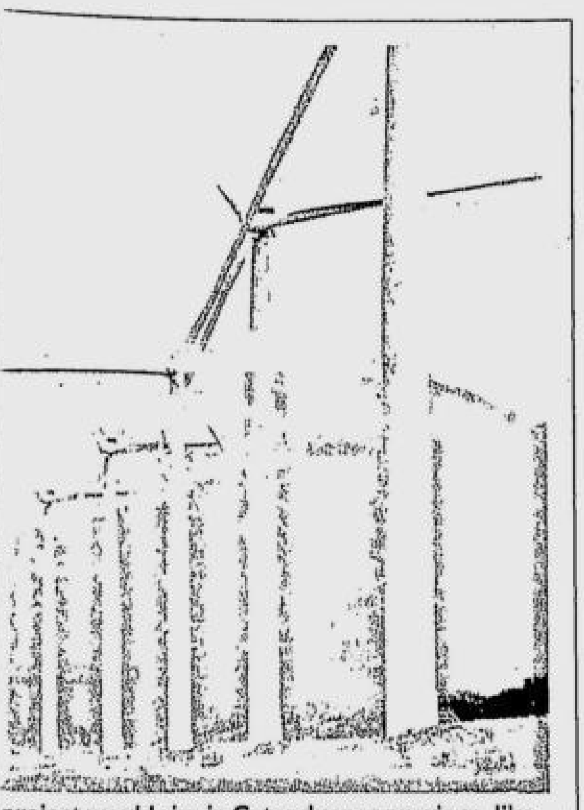

project would rise in Catanduanes province, like in Bangui Bay in Ilocos Norte, pictured here. AFP

DTI steps up drive against red tape

Provincial units urged to reform after Leyte office earns accolades

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND Industry's units in the provinces are stepping up the campaign to cut red tape after its Leyte office was awarded "best in reforms" among sub-national government agencies in Asia.

The citation, called Best Sub-National Reform in Asia 2006, was given out by the Donor Committee for Enterprise Development to DTI-Leyte for the successful efforts of streamlining the process for business permits and licensing (BPL) in Ormoc City.

With help from the German Technical Cooperation's Small and Medium Enterprise Development for Sustainable Employment Program (GTZ-Smedsep), the local government of Ormoc has reduced the BPL from 17 steps to only five.

Processing time was also cut from 17 days to two, as the the number of required documents were halved from 12 to six.

The DCED, comprised of development agencies involved in international cooperation initiatives, is behind the awards program called "Excellence in Business Environment Reform," which recognizes excellence in high-impact, sustainable and coordinated donor support for reforms in the business environment.

Trade Secretary Peter B. Favila said the achievement of the department's Leyte office is a model for all DTI units to follow.

Favila said 'DTI-Leyte beat out best practice entries of other Asian countries in the sub-national category for the impact of its reform project on business registration in Ormoc in encouraging more business activities in the city.

He explained that good practices in BPL include making business registration as simple and short as possible; convening all offices involved in the BPL process in one location and computerization.

Good practices also involve developing multi-sectoral alliances to achieve a common goal or improve performance; informing potential and existing customer about the requirements, procedures, and renewal process; and obtaining client feedback and providing amenities as well as training staff to provide excellent customer service.

Favila said that due to the simplified process of business licensing in Ormoc City, the number of business registrants increased by a quarter in 2006 compared to the previous year

Also, the improved system brought Ormoc City's revenues from business licenses to P21.16 million, helping the local government improve social services aimed at the reduction of poverty incidence.

"Duplication of this feat in all government offices would surely encourage more investments in the country, Favila said.

"The simplified transaction process would, in turn, reduce corruption and speed up the creation of new businesses in the country," said Favila, who is also chair of the Anti-Red Tape Task Force.

Favila said the experience of Ormoc City was now a documented good practice in streamlining business permits and licensing, which can be replicated in other LGUs.

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with a copy of an INQUIRER story "DENR rushing in the wrong direction" which came out in Jan. 28, 2006. The leaders successfully convinced the DENR chief to suspend the order. Due process was then followed.

The second order that had also been suspended was the Mandatory Environmental Insurance Coverage. In the Feb. 17, 2006 story, "Useless costs kill jobs," which appeared in the INQUIRER, it was explained that the mandate entailed additional costs to be added to already sufficient insurance coverage provided by the government's Energy Guarantee Fund. What made the order all the more suspicious was that, only one company was identified by the DENR to be utilized, creating a monopoly. What was doubly insulting was that the selected firm had outstanding accounts amounting to millions of pesos being investigated by the Insurance Commission.

Vigilance needed

Today, our sources at the DENR are saying that both suspended orders may soon be activated by DENR Secretary Lito Atienza. It is now up to farmers to step up their vigilance, lest their hard-earned victories turn into defeat. It is also hoped that Atienza himself will be on his guard against unscrupulous forces who may feed him misleading information. This may result, not only in the defeat of farmers, but of the nation as well.

(The author is chair of Agriwatch, former secretary for Presidential Flagship Programs and Projects, and former undersecretary for Agriculture, and Trade and Industry. For inquiries and suggestions, email agriwatchphil @yahoo.com or telefax (02) 8522112).

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Bond Fund - Peso	1.63300	1.62274
Managed Fund - Peso	1.89463	1.86718
Growth Fund - Peso	1.82422	1.76350
Bond Fund - US Dollar	1.4057	1.3949

* Note These investments of variable life insurance contracts are not mutual funds. Life insurance products are regulated by the Insurance Commission

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	Sept. 24, 2007	Sept. 17, 2007
Fixed Income Fund	1.295335	1.288164
Balanced Fund	1.446703	1.423441
Equity Fund	1.705600	1.658722

These investment funds are specific to variable life insurance contracts and are not considered mutual funds. Life insurance products are regulated by the Insurance Commission.
The weekly unit prices are also available at www.insularlife.com.ph.

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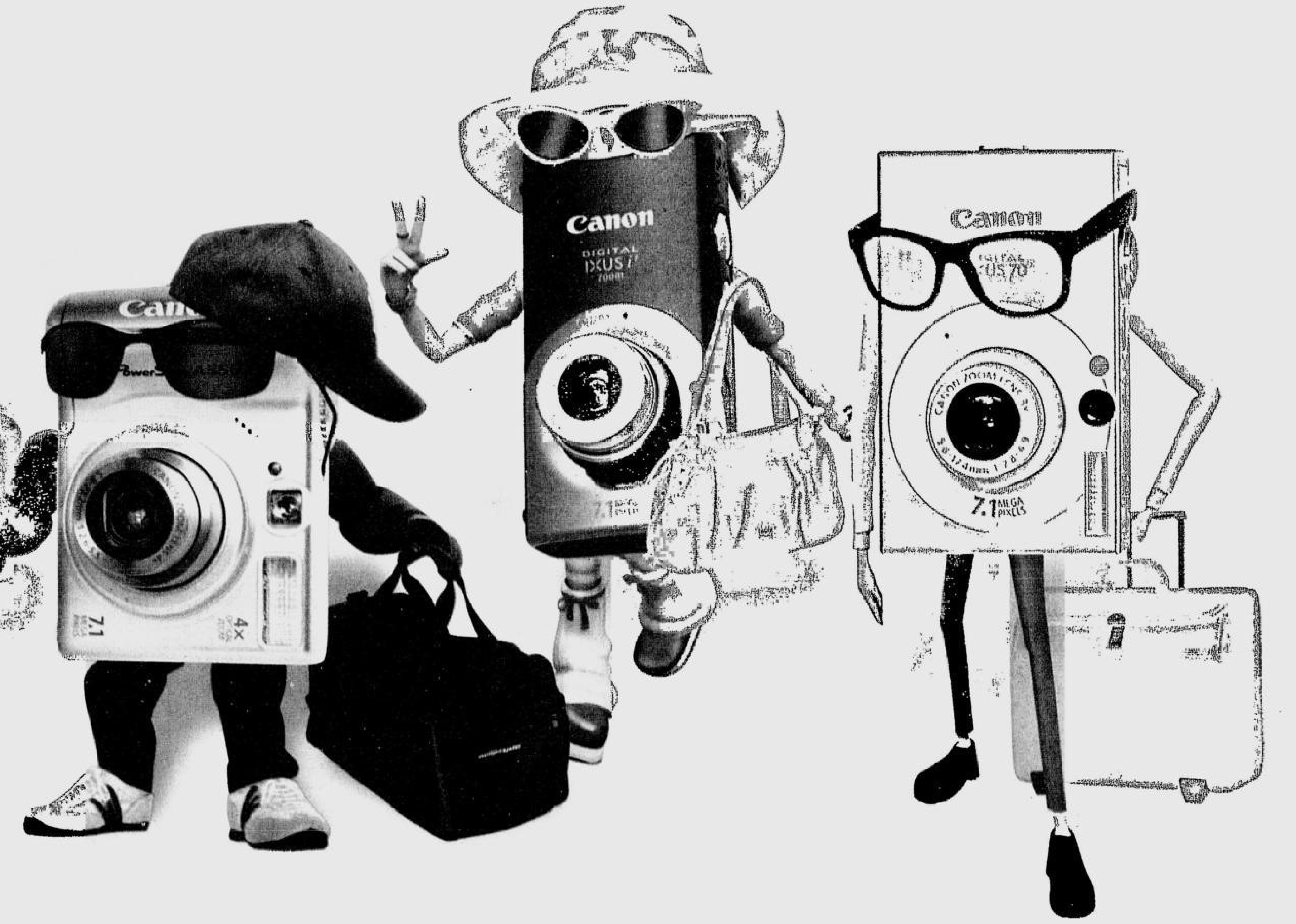

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PT KALBE FARMA TBK Unit 13-B Chatham House, Valero cor. Rufino St., Salcedo Village, Makati City	Maret Yudianto Indonesian	Country Manager
PROV INTERNATIONAL (PHILIPPINES), INC. 37/F GT International Tower, Ayala Ave. cor. H.V. dela Costa St., Makati City	Prakhar Piyush Saxena Indian	Lead Development Engineering Consultant
PROV INTERNATIONAL (PHILIPPINES), INC. 37/F GT International Tower, Ayala Ave. cor. H.V. dela Costa St., Makati City	Santosh Damodar Shinde Indian	Network Engineering Consultant
NYX SPA 2/F Makati Palace Hotel P. Burgos St., Poblacion, Makati City	Su Hyung Noh Korean	Manager
NYX SPA 2/F Makati Palace Hotel P. Burgos St., Poblacion, Makati City	Yongcheol Jung Korean	Supervisor
LSJ2000 ENTERPRISES, INC. 136 Timog Ave., Quezon City	Byeong Ho Kwon Korean	Operation Manager
LSJ2000 ENTERPRISES, INC. 136 Timog Ave., Quezon City	Seungjin Lee Korean	General Manager
SONVA, INC. 104 Rufino St., Legaspi Village, Makati City	David Charles Griffiths Canadian	Chef
ANDO PHILIPPINES CORPORATION 19B Chatham House Bldg., 116 Valero St., Salcedo Village, Makati City	Seiki Taniguchi Japanese	Construction Engineer
MULTICO PRIME POWER, INC. 7797 St. Paul Rd., San Antonio Village, Makati City	Victor Tjeng Biauw The Indonesian	President & General Manager
CHIZZY AMUSEMENT CORP. Unit 101-102 Sherwood Place, 2262 Taft Ave., Malate, Manila	Lucas Michael Iyke Nigerian	Operations Manager
LEARNINGLITZ, INC. Rm. 209-215 Peninsula Court, 8735 Makati Ave. cor. Paseo de Roxas, Makati City	Michael David Stevens Canadian	Full-Time English Instructor
TAKENAKA CORPORATION - PHIL. BRANCH 18/F Tower2 The Enterprise Center, 6766 Ayala Ave. cor. Paseo de Roxas, Makati City	Daisuke Fukamachi Japanese	Corporate Representative
NCT TRANSNATIONAL CORP. G/F TDG NYK Harbor Ctr., Bldg. I, Railroad cor. 23rd & 24th Sts., Port Area, Manila	Naoto Makiyama Japanese	Business Development Manager
PACIFIC STAR & SEO HYUN TOUR CORP. 4/F Coretown Bldg., 2822 EDSA Extension, Pasay City	Sungsun Yang Korean	Asst. Operation Manager
PACIFIC STAR & SEO HYUN TOUR CORP. 4/F Coretown Bldg., 2822 EDSA Extension, Pasay City	Minjin Park Korean	Sales Manager
MITSUBISHI HEAVY INDUSTRIES ENGINE SYSTEM PHILIPPINES, INC. Warehouse 4C Sunblest Comp., Km. 23 West Service Rd., Bo. Cupang, Muntinlupa City	Kingo Ishigami Japanese	Technical Consultant
FIRST ADVANTAGE PHILIPPINES, INC. 10/F The Paragon Corporate Centre, Industry St., Madrigal Business Park, Alabang, Muntinlupa City	Wichit Wungkeeree Thai	Screening Associate - Multilingual
IBM SOLUTIONS DELIVERY, INC. 5/F IBM Plaza, 8 Eastwood Avenue, Eastwood City Cyberpark, E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave., Bagumbayan, Quezon City	Anjan Majumdar Indian	Director and Leader
TOKIO MARINE MALAYAN INSURANCE CO., INC. 3rd, 6th & 7th Flrs., Y Tower II LP Leviste cor. Gallardo Sts., Salcedo Village, Makati City	Hiroshi Nishioka Japanese	Vice President
CONNECTIVITY FACTORS AND ACCESS, INC. 20/F Burgundy Corporate Tower, 252 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City	Jinwoo Choi Korean	Customer Service
9 MING GOAL, INC. Unit 8-A Marvin Plaza Bldg., Don Chino Roces Avenue, Makati City	Ngai Sing Wong Chinese	Operations Manager
WORLD NEWS PUBLICATION CORP. 578 T. Pinpin St., Binondo, Manila	Chi Cheung Johnny Chan Chinese	Mandarin Language Translator
POWER LANGUAGE INT'L. CENTER 15/F Goldloop Tower A, Amber Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City	Beomyong Kim Korean	General Manager

If you have any information/objection to the above mentioned application/s please communicate with the Regional Director.

RAYMUNDO G. AGRAVANTE
OIC-Regional Director

(PDI–September 28, 2007)

Customs seeking flexibility in setting revenue target

Goal should be based on peso-dollar rate, says Morales

By Michelle V. Remo

CUSTOMS COMMISSIONER NAPOLEON Morales has asked for more flexibility in setting the bureau's collection target for next year given the continued strengthening of the peso against the US dollar.

Morales yesterday said on the sidelines of the Senate hearing on the proposed 2008 budget of the Department of Finance, the BOC's mother agency, that it would be "unfair" to expect the BOC to meet its 2008 collection target if the peso would keep on appreciating.

Morales explained that the BOC loses an estimated P2.2 billion in potential revenue for every unit of peso appreciation, for example, when the peso strengthens from 46 to 45 to the dollar.

For this year, BOC was tasked to collect P228.2 billion, but this was based on the assumption that the peso would average at 48-50 to the dollar.

The peso, however, has remained within the 45-to-a-dollar territory, which partly explains why the bureau fell short of its collection target for the first half.

In July and August, the BOC met its collection targets. It still has to exceed its targets for the remaining months of the year for it to meet its full-year goal of P228.2 billion.

For next year, the BOC is tasked to collect even more import taxes at P254.5 billion, consistent with the national government's goal of balancing its budget after a decade of being in the red.

The BOC and the Bureau of Internal Revenue are the two biggest revenue sources of the government.

Morales said that since the exchange rate had been exerting huge influence on its collection performance, the collection target should not be just one figure but a range, depending on the peso value.

The BIR and the BOC are hard-pressed to meet their collection targets, as the government has vowed to balance its budget next year.

The last time the government posted a budget surplus was in 1997. Its budget has been at a deficit since the Asian financial crisis took its toll on corporate earnings and, consequently, on tax collection.

This resulted in less government money going to infrastructure and social services.

This year, the government has programmed to limit its deficit to P63 billion, an improvement over last year's P64.8 billion.

FIRM GETS MINING PERMIT
Mining and Geosciences Bureau director Horacio Ramos (left) hands over to Frank Lao of Oriental Synergy Mining Corp. the Mineral and Production Sharing Agreement awarded to the company for its mining claim in Urbiztondo, Surigao del Norte. With Ramos and Lao is Leo Hazareno also of MGB.

BPI expands in Europe, puts up unit in London

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE AYALAS' BANK OF THE PHILIPPINE Islands is opening a full banking subsidiary in London in mid-October as part of its expansion in Europe, which hosts a growing number of overseas Filipinos.

BPI, the country's second biggest bank in terms of assets, has likewise applied for the opening of full branches in Spain and Italy, BPI senior vice president Teresita Tan said in a press briefing yesterday.

BPI's new European unit will initially operate two branches in London and then use its UK banking license to establish operations in other key European markets. The bank has an existing remittance subsidiary in Rome and this will be converted into a full branch, Tan said.

Unlike a remittance unit which can only handle cash transfers, a full branch can accept deposits, offer loans, trade currencies and provide letters of credit.

However, BPI, which is to date the biggest banking channel for overseas Filipino remittances, does not see the need for aggressive investment in physical presence to expand its offshore business.

"The establishment of branches is the most expensive way to expand. Our strategy is not to expand a lot, maybe put up one or two branches a year but we are also expanding by establishing tie-ups," said Raul Dimayuga, president of BPI Direct, the BPI group's savings bank unit focused on the overseas Filipino market.

For instance, Dimayuga said an existing tie-up with US banking giant Wells Fargo had enabled BPI to capture a big business in the US without investing in too many branches.

He said BPI could put up two or three more branches in the United States only to complement the tie-up with Wells Fargo. The bank's comprehensive electronic banking platform, whether using mobile or web-based solutions, is also seen as adequate to reach out to Filipinos working abroad.

Dimayuga also expressed confidence that the current global financial market volatility caused by the US subprime crisis would not adversely affect the inflow of overseas Filipino remittances to the country.

Although the subprime crisis could affect some western countries, Dimayuga said the impact on inward remittances to the Philippines could be tempered by growing remittances in other parts of the world like in the Middle East.

He said demand for Filipino workers in the Middle East continued to grow despite the overall downtrend in deployment this year.

ISM gets $10M in investment

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

LONDON-BASED INvestment fund Ashmore Investment Management Ltd. is investing $10 million or about P450 million in listed technology firm ISM Communications Corp. of former Trade Minister Roberto V. Ongpin.

In a disclosure to the stock exchange, ISM, formerly Itogon-Suyoc Mines Inc., said this meant Ashmore's stake in the company would increase to 31.3 percent from 22 percent.

Ashmore is a major investment fund based in the United Kingdom. It manages some $32 billion worth of funds.

ISM said its board approved the private placement by Ashmore and the issuance of 16.5 billion ISM to that company.

The shares will be issued at a 10-percent discount to the 20-day average price of ISM shares, which as of yesterday was 3.04 centavos, or about 2.74 centavos per share.

To accommodate the private placement and to provide ISM with flexibility for future capital expansion, the company's board also approved the increase in ISM's capitalization from the existing P1.2 billion to P3 billion.

A special stockholders' meeting will be held for the ratification of the capital hike, but the date has yet to be set.

The proceeds from the private placement are being earmarked for further investments in Eastern Telecommunications Philippines Inc. (ETPI) and acquisitions in the information and communications industries.

ISM owns 57.7 percent in ETPI, a domestic corporation engaged in operating, installing and establishing commercial telecommunication, point-to-point domestic inter-island and international communications and other telecommunications services.

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
Regional Office No. IV-A
3rd Flr., Andenson Bldg. II, Brgy. Parian, Calamba City
Telefax Nos. (049) 545-0292

September 28, 2007

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office application/s for Alien Employment Permit/s.

Name and Address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National/Citizenship	Position
1. CALAMBA STEEL CENTER, INC. Brgy. Saimsim, Calamba City	Mr. Nobuya Akimoto/ Japanese	Technical Consultant
2. PHILIPPINE DENRAI, INC CEZ, Rosario, Cavite	Mr. Shigekazu Imanishi/ Japanese	Production Adviser
3. B.K. ELECTRONICS PHILIPPINES, INC PEZA, Rosario, Cavite	Mr. Durk Soo Bark/ Korean	General Manager for Operation
4. HI-PRECISION STEEL CENTER, INC. PTC, Bo. Maduya, Carmona, Cavite	Mr. Takashi Makiguchi/ Japanese	Senior Manager of Sales Department 2
5. HONDA PHILIPPINES, INC. FPIP, Tanauan City	Mr. Takatsugu Hiroki/ Japanese	Assistant Vice President for Service
6. SOUTHERN EAST HARDWARE & CONSTRUCTION SUPPLY National Highway, Banlic Cabuyao, Laguna	Mr. Qinghuan Hong/ Chinese	Sales Manager
7. GA & P TEC, INC CEZ, Rosario, Cavite	Mr. Daehyun Yoo/ Korean	Marketing Consultant
8. LUSTER RUBBER MANUFACTURING CORPORATION Lima Technology Center, Lipa City	Mr. Suekazu Ide/ Japanese	Technical Adviser
9. LUSTER RUBBER MANUFACTURING CORPORATION Lima Technology Center, Lipa City	Ms. Akiko Ishino/ Japanese	President
10. MAXIM PHILIPPINES OPERATING CORP. GBP, Javalera, Gen. Trias, Cavite	Mr. Steven H. Cox/ American	General Manager
11. HANA MILLION, INC. PEZA, Rosario, Cavite	Mr. Kyoung-Min Baek/ Korean	Production Technical Adviser
12. HANA MILLION, INC. PEZA, Rosario, Cavite	Mr. Kyung Su Lee/ Korean	Production Technical Adviser
13. HANA MILLION, INC. PEZA, Rosario, Cavite	Mr. Seung Bok Oh/ Korean	General Manager

If you have any information/objection to the above-mentioned application/s please communicate with the Regional Director.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. RICARDO S. MARTINEZ, SR., CESO III**
Regional Director

(PDI–September 28, 2007)

CURRENCIES

September 27, 2007 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.707814	1.000000	45.2010
Japan	Yen	0.006126	0.008655	0.3912
United Kingdom	Pound	1.426812	2.015800	91.1162
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.091135	0.128756	5.8199
Switzerland	Franc	0.604608	0.854190	38.6102
Canada	Dollar	0.705205	0.996314	45.0344
Singapore	Dollar	0.472475	0.667512	30.1722
Australia	Dollar	0.618935	0.874432	39.5252
Bahrain	Dinar*	1.878937	2.654562	119.9889
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.189255	0.267380	12.0858
Brunei	Dollar	0.470903	0.665292	30.0719
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000077	0.000109	0.0049
Thailand	Baht	0.022470	0.031746	1.4350
UAE	Dirham	0.192786	0.272368	12.3113
EU	Euro	1.000000	1.412800	63.8600
Korea	Won	0.000769	0.001086	0.0491
China	Yuan**	0.094187	0.133067	6.0148
Denmark	Kroner	0.134132	0.189502	8.5657
India	Rupee	0.017869	0.025246	1.1411
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.206721	0.292056	13.2012
New Zealand	Dollar	0.526687	0.744103	33.6342
Sweden	Kroner	0.108230	0.152908	6.9116
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.021500	0.030375	1.3730

Source: Reuters' forex closing prices as of NY time – Sept. 26, 2007
* Various banks in Bahrain as quoted in Reuters' Screen. ** Asian time closing rate as of Sept. 26, 2007

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of September 27, 2007)

52-WEEK HIGH	52-WEEK LOW	STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
		BANKS					
17.5	5.4	Asiatrust Development Bank Inc.	8.7	8.7	8.7	8.7	15,000
73	38.5	Banco de Oro-EPCI Inc.	56.5	59	55.5	59	1,375,800
73.5	53	Bank of the Philippine Islands	67	67.5	67	67.5	1,711,100
935	630	China Banking Corp.	865	875	865	875	7,690
23.5	18.5	Citystate Savings Bank	23	23	23	23	1,500
0.63	0.36	Export and Industry Bank Inc	0.42	0.42	0.4	0.41	8,230,000
75.5	40	Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co.	54.5	56	53.5	55	10,240,500
65.5	33	Philippine National Bank	47.5	47.5	47	47	543,500
68	41	Philippine Savings Bank	63	63	63	63	1,000
72	40	Philippine Bank of Communications	53	53	53	53	500
39.57	15	Rizal Commercial Banking Corp.	22.5	22.75	22.5	22.75	3,566,100
90	49.5	Security Bank Corp.	70	72	70	72	23,600
66	43.52	Union Bank of the Philippines	55	55	54.5	54.5	38,300
		OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
5.6	1.76	ATR KimEng Financial Corp.	4	4	4	4	66,000
2.22	0.6	Bankard Inc.	1.92	1.94	1.92	1.94	1,504,000
16.25	3.7	CitisecOnline.com Inc.	10.75	10.75	10.5	10.75	151,000
1.6	0.4	First Abacus Financial Holdings Corp.	0.89	0.89	0.89	0.89	150,000
42	29	First Metro Investment Corp.	42	42	42	42	200
1,805.00	1,560.00	Manulife Financial Corp.	1,780.00	1,780.00	1,780.00	1,780.00	510
5	2.95	National Reinsurance Corp. of the Phils.	3.55	3.65	3.5	3.65	2,328,000
3.1	1.02	PCI Leasing and Finance Inc.	1.92	1.94	1.92	1.94	127,000
1,005.00	232	The Philippine Stock Exchange Inc	760	760	750	755	1,690
2,335.00	1,945.00	Sun Life Financial Inc.	2,300.00	2,305.00	2,300.00	2,305.00	1,000
1.94	1.3	iVantage Corp.	1.54	1.54	1.54	1.54	213,000
		ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
6.2	3.8	Aboitiz Power Corp	5.1	5.3	5.1	5.3	2,831,000
0.57	0.23	East Asia Power Resources Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.29	0.29	490,000
70	49	First Gen Corp.	59	60.5	57.5	60.5	3,414,600
92	49.5	First Phil. Holdings Corp.	76.5	81	76.5	79.5	1,162,500
15	8.8	Manila Water Co. Inc.	14	14.25	14	14.25	2,912,900
105.45	17.27	Manila Electric Co.	83	83	82	83	1,870,200
7	4.1	PNOC Energy Development Corp.	6.2	6.4	6.2	6.4	11,568,000
6.5	3.9	Petron Corp.	5.6	5.9	5.5	5.8	6,362,000
14.75	6.6	Phoenix Petroleum Philippines Inc.	7.6	7.7	7.5	7.5	386,000
1.9	0.99	Trans-Asia Oil & Energy Dev't Corp	1.24	1.26	1.22	1.24	349,000
		FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
6.3	3.1	Alaska Milk Corp	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2	26,000
2.95	1.66	Alliance Tuna International Inc.	1.76	1.8	1.76	1.78	961,000
61	34	Jollibee Foods Corp	53	53.5	52.5	52.5	1,698,700
0.98	0.43	RFM Corp.	0.82	0.82	0.82	0.82	70,000
3.85	2.06	Roxas Holdings	2.48	2.48	2.48	2.48	2,000
80	59	San Miguel Corp. "A"	60	60.5	60	60.5	2,025,900
88	59.5	San Miguel Corp. "B"	61	62.5	61	62	842,900
4.7	2	Tanduay Holdings Inc.	4	4	4	4	10,000
22	15.25	Universal Robina Corp.	16.25	16.25	16.25	16.25	4,675,300
0.55	0.26	Vitarich Corp.	0.39	0.39	0.35	0.35	120,000
		CONSTRUCTION INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
6.1	1.77	EEI Corp.	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25	597,000
21.5	6	Federal Chemicals Inc.	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.5	5,000
9.2	4.9	Holcim Philippines Inc.	8.3	8.3	8.2	8.3	2,054,000
7	1.4	Republic Cement Corp.	4.05	4.05	4.05	4.05	50,000
2	0.28	Southeast Asia Cement Holdings Inc.	1.2	1.26	1.18	1.24	33,967,000
		CHEMICALS					
6.3	3.75	Chemrez Technologies Inc.	4.2	4.2	4.15	4.15	1,571,000
1.46	0.51	Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	1.02	1.04	1	1.04	580,000
		DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
0.75	0.125	[illegible]	0.42	0.42	0.41	0.41	23,650,000
		HOLDING FIRMS					
3.9	2	A. Soriano Corp.	3.25	3.25	3.25	3.25	2,000
0.17	0.025	AJO.net Holdings Inc.	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.105	16,700,000
1.28	0.22	APC Group Inc.	0.85	0.87	0.84	0.84	18,380,000
3.6	1.5	ATN Holdings Inc. "A"	3	3.15	2.95	3.1	5,086,000
3.7	1.5	ATN Holdings Inc. "B"	3	3.3	3	3.25	8,060,000
0.018	0.007	Abacus Cons. Res. & Hold'gs Inc. "A"	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	5,300,000
0.019	0.0075	Abacus Cons. Res. & Hold'gs Inc. "B"	0.013	0.013	0.013	0.013	6,700,000
9.7	5.1	Aboitiz Equity Ventures Inc.	7	7.1	6.9	6.9	995,000
0.021	0.0075	Alcorn Gold Resources Corp.	0.015	0.015	0.015	0.015	64,700,000
7.3	3.5	Alliance Global Group Inc.	4.9	5	4.85	4.95	44,986,000
1.38	0.51	Alsons Consolidated Resources Inc.	0.96	0.96	0.95	0.95	510,000
2.9	0.89	Anglo-Philippine Holdings Corp.	2.26	2.32	2.26	2.32	7,533,000
590	375	Ayala Corp.	510	535	510	535	609,360
5.8	1.22	Benpres Holdings Corp.	4.1	4.15	4.1	4.15	5,652,000
10.25	3.75	DMCI Holdings Inc.	9	9.2	9	9.2	1,842,000
6.9	1.06	Eton Properties Philippines Inc.	4.1	4.1	4	4	55,000
8	2.55	Filinvest Development Corp.	5.3	5.4	5.3	5.4	867,000
3.55	1.26	House of Investments Inc.	1.94	2	1.94	2	180,000
14.5	5.9	JG Summit Holdings Inc.	10	10.25	10	10.25	410,000
5.9	0.61	Jolliville Holdings Corp.	1.84	2.04	1.8	1.94	1,310,000
0.8	0.205	Medco Holdings Inc.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	60,000
11.5	1.1	Multitech Investments Corp.	5.8	6.2	5.7	6.1	8,305,000
8.2	2.8	PAL Holdings Inc	6.9	6.9	6.9	6.9	10,000
0.215	0.01	Pacifica Inc. "A"	0.2	0.205	0.19	0.2	765,680,000
1.54	0.72	Prime Media Holdings Inc.	0.98	0.98	0.87	0.9	840,000
0.75	0.18	Prime Orion Philippines Inc.	0.46	0.46	0.46	0.46	1,090,000
2.1	1.2	Republic Glass Holdings Corp.	1.66	1.66	1.66	1.66	100,000
452.5	236.89	SM Investments Corp.	370	375	370	375	264,830
0.73	0.125	Sinophil Corp.	0.42	0.43	0.42	0.42	9,470,000
1.6	0.9	South China Resources Inc.	1.42	1.42	1.4	1.4	20,000
23	1	TKC Steel Corp.	18	18	18	18	8,000
0.75	0.1	Wellex Industries Inc.	0.4	0.41	0.39	0.4	27,610,000
1.1	0.26	Zeus Holdings Inc.	0.65	0.8	0.65	0.72	1,150,000
		PROPERTY					
2.34	0.96	A Brown Co. Inc.	1.5	1.6	1.5	1.58	1,334,000
8.9	5	Anchor Land Holdings Inc	7.9	8.1	7.9	8	62,000
1.06	0.32	Araneta Properties Inc	0.74	0.74	0.7	0.7	370,000
19.25	11.25	Ayala Land Inc.	16.25	16.5	16.25	16.5	23,766,400
1.88	1	Belle Corp.	1.18	1.22	1.18	1.2	3,740,000
4.7	2.65	Cebu Holdings Inc.	3.8	4	3.8	4	139,000
2.9	1.3	Cityland Development Corp.	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	3,000
0.86	0.31	Crown Equities Inc.	0.64	0.65	0.64	0.64	900,000
0.83	0.24	Cyber Bay Corp.	0.48	0.5	0.48	0.5	1,810,000
0.99	0.51	Empire East Land Holdings Inc.	0.7	0.73	0.7	0.72	14,270,000
0.47	0.05	Ever Gotesco Resources & Hold'gs Inc.	0.28	0.29	0.28	0.28	7,330,000
1.48	0.55	Fil-Estate Land Inc.	1.14	1.24	1.14	1.24	45,711,000
2.44	1.25	Filinvest Land Inc.	1.54	1.68	1.54	1.66	107,324,000
1.12	0.24	MRC Allied Industries Inc.	0.59	0.59	0.58	0.58	9,310,000
4.4	1.73	Megaworld Corp.	3.35	3.4	3.3	3.35	43,812,000
6.4	1.5	Metro Pacific Investments Corp.	3.8	4.6	3.8	4.4	1,390,000
0.7	0.125	Phil. Estates Corp.	0.39	0.39	0.38	0.39	1,310,000
0.87	0.32	Philippine Realty & Holdings Corp.	0.49	0.51	0.49	0.51	4,880,000
9.2	1.1	Polar Property Holdings Corp.	4.1	4.8	4.1	4.8	208,000
23	12.5	Robinson Land Corp.	16.25	16.5	16	16.25	9,989,900
5.9	1.52	SM Development Corp.	4.15	4.2	4.1	4.15	1,247,000
13.5	6.64	SM Prime Holdings Inc.	11.75	12	11.75	12	7,246,700
3.25	0.98	Shang Properties Inc.	2.36	2.4	2.3	2.4	745,000
1.34	0.46	Suntrust Home Developers Inc.	0.67	0.67	0.65	0.65	90,000
0.49	0.08	Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.28	0.29	0.28	0.29	450,000
7.5	3.65	Vista Land and Lifescapes Inc.	5	5.2	4.95	5.1	10,250,000
		MEDIA					
38.5	16.25	ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	32.5	32.5	31.5	32	39,700
11.75	8.7	GMA Network Inc.	9.1	9.2	9	9.2	620,000
		TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
2.12	1.1	Digital Telecommunications Phils. Inc.	1.3	1.3	1.28	1.3	2,467,000
1,520.00	1,055.00	Globe Telecom Inc.	1,485.00	1,520.00	1,485.00	1,515.00	242,420
2,945.00	2,150.00	Phil. Long Distance Telephone Co.	2,895.00	2,945.00	2,895.00	2,940.00	97,350
7.9	4.5	Pilipino Telephone Corp.	6.9	7.1	6.9	7.1	3,015,000
		INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
0.39	0.17	Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.195	0.195	0.195	0.195	3,660,000
11.5	2	IPVG Corp.	8.2	8.4	8.1	8.3	776,000
0.065	0.027	ISM Communications Corp.	0.032	0.045	0.032	0.045	929,700,000
29.5	8	Imperial Resources Inc. "A"	15.5	17	15.5	17	13,700
2.9	1.48	Ionics Inc.	1.8	1.8	1.74	1.78	360,000
0.32	0.043	Island Information & Technology Inc.	0.2	0.205	0.195	0.195	70,450,000
2.08	1.1	Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.24	1.3	1.24	1.28	383,000
0.0725	0.029	PhilWeb.Com Inc.	0.049	0.0525	0.049	0.0525	949,900,000
5.8	1	Transpacific Broadband Group Int'l. Inc.	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	210,000
		TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
38.5	16.5	Int'l Container Terminal Services Inc.	38	38.5	37.5	37.5	823,800
		HOTEL & LEISURE					
16.5	5	Acesite (Phils.) Hotel Corp.	8.7	9	8.7	9	17,000
4.25	1.8	Leisure and Resorts World Corp.	2.75	2.75	2.75	2.75	80,000
0.98	0.3	Premiere Entertainment Prod Inc.	0.6	0.6	0.59	0.6	540,000
1.2	0.42	Waterfront Philippines Inc.	0.79	0.79	0.78	0.79	3,350,000
		EDUCATION					
9.8	7.2	Centro Escolar University	7.9	7.9	7.9	7.9	1,000
3.7	2.6	iPeople Inc.	3	3.05	3	3.05	230,000
		DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
6	1.94	Macroasia Corp.	4.55	4.55	4.5	4.55	198,000
17.25	9.8	Pacific Online Systems Corp.	12.5	13	12.5	13	185,200
30	10.5	Paxys Inc.	12.75	13	12.5	13	291,100
		MINING					
0.017	0.0085	Abra Mining and Industrial Corp	0.012	0.013	0.012	0.012	367,200,000
7.6	3.6	Apex Mining Co. Inc. "A"	5.9	5.9	5.7	5.7	488,000
7.7	3.85	Apex Mining Co. Inc. "B"	5.9	5.9	5.7	5.8	151,000
21.25	7.7	Atlas Cons. Mining and Dev't Corp.	15.25	15.75	15.25	15.75	4,066,600
14.25	8.9	Benguet Corp. "A"	12.25	12.25	12.25	12.25	500
3.1	0.51	Geograce Resources Philippines Inc.	2.08	2.18	2.08	2.18	128,673,000
0.37	0.18	Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. "A"	0.35	0.36	0.34	0.36	69,740,000
0.42	0.22	Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. "B"	0.37	0.37	0.36	0.36	20,680,000
0.038	0.017	Manila Mining Corp. "A"	0.028	0.028	0.027	0.028	80,700,000
0.041	0.02	Manila Mining Corp. "B"	0.031	0.032	0.031	0.031	45,500,000
30	1.2	NIHAO Minerals Resources Int'l Inc.	16.5	18.5	16.5	18.5	5,448,600
0.021	0.0079	Omico Corp.	0.013	0.013	0.013	0.013	83,500,000
7.7	3.45	Philex Mining Corp.	7.7	7.7	7.5	7.7	9,580,000
43	14.75	Semirara Mining Corp.	35	36	35	35	113,700
1.36	0.39	United Paragon Mining Corp.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	454,000
1.8	0.56	Vulcan Industrial and Mining Corp.	1.24	1.3	1.24	1.28	18,904,000
		OIL					
0.58	0.25	Basic Energy Corp.	0.37	0.37	0.35	0.36	7,500,000
0.026	0.0095	Oriental Pet. & Minerals Corp. "A"	0.024	0.026	0.024	0.026	114,700,000
0.027	0.01	Oriental Pet. & Minerals Corp. "B"	0.026	0.027	0.026	0.027	181,400,000
11.75	9	Petroenergy Resources Corp.	9.5	9.6	9.5	9.6	39,000
0.028	0.0089	The Philodrill Corp.	0.026	0.027	0.026	0.026	83,700,000

	AVERAGES		VOLUME	VALUE
Financial	907.34 UP	16.93	30,296,990	891,529,750.00
Industrial	4,559.77 UP	60.09	101,452,000	1,037,924,075.00
Holding Firms	1,998.09 UP	66.78	1,039,977,190	1,160,738,950.00
Property	1,606.20 UP	70.23	297,688,000	1,113,346,120.00
Service	1,762.38 UP	51.40	1,967,650,270	835,199,375.00
Mining & Oil	7,326.33 UP	137.26	1,222,538,400	593,715,835.00
All Shares Index	2,222.80 UP	59.81		
PSEI	3,577.51 UP	101.76		
		GRAND TOTALS	4,659,602,850	5,632,454,105.00

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SOURCE: TECHNISTOCK PSE

SMB capital increase OKd

Parent company plans to pay subscription by assigning assets worth P15.3 billion

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE Commission yesterday approved the increase in the capital of San Miguel Brewery or SMB, a newly incorporated beer manufacturing unit of San Miguel Corp., to P25 billion from P100 million.

The beer brewery unit plans to undertake a public offering but it has yet to announce the details of this plan.

The P25-billion capital will consist of 25 billion shares at a par value of P1 per share.

SMC had planned to subscribe to 750,000 shares from the existing unissued shares of SMB and 152.33 million shares from the additional capital stock.

SMC's subscription to the beer unit was estimated to cost P15.3 billion.

In documents obtained earlier, SMC said it had fully paid its subscription by assigning in favor of SMB certain assets and liabilities in the domestic beer business with a net book value of P15.3 billion.

SMC's partner Kirin Brewery of Japan is reportedly interested in investing in SMB.

A strategic investor of San Miguel since 2002, Kirin Brewery Co. Ltd. has a 20-percent stake in SMC.

SMB will be engaged in manufacturing malt-based beer.

SMC president Ramon Ang earlier said a stand-alone domestic brewing business would enhance the San Miguel group's ability to compete more effectively in the industry.

"An IPO (initial public offer) would raise for the business much needed equity and allow it to grow faster and partner more effectively with other world class players like Kirin," Ang said earlier.

Fund raising for schools

Corporate Securities Info

Raul J. Palabrica

IT'S CRUNCH TIME ONCE MORE for our private colleges and universities.

The first semester of the current school year will soon be over. This early, many tertiary schools have put out advertisements in the newspapers for the second semester.

The dearth of financial support from outside sources forces private schools to rely principally on student fees and assessments to meet their operational requirements.

And school administrators have reason to worry.

With the present high cost of living, the government-run educational institutions are attracting more enrollment than their counterpart in the private sector.

Private schools can raise their tuition fees only so much without inviting complaints from parents or discouraging enrollment.

If an increase in enrollment is not possible, the next best thing is for the student population not to go down to a level that would make it difficult for the school to maintain its standards.

Interestingly, some private schools have been able to minimize their dependence on fees and assessments by issuing corporate-type bonds or debt notes.

Investment

The process starts with the school conducting a study on the amount of money it will need to improve the quality of its faculty and teaching facilities within, say, five years.

Accomplishing this objective would be like shooting two birds with one stone. It will enable the school to fulfill its primary mission and, when word gets around the community about this achievement, attract more students. And that means additional revenue.

Using the money target as the benchmark, the school, in consultation with its financial adviser, then figures out the terms and conditions of the debt paper it will issue to cover that amount.

For example, if the money sought to be raised is P50 million, the solicitation may have the following features: divided in tranches of P2 million, 10-year maturity, 5-percent interest payable quarterly starting the third year, and redeemable at the option of the school anytime before its maturity.

Or in lieu of repayment of the principal, the money may be applied to the tuition fee of a child of the holder of the debt paper or anybody he may designate to enjoy that benefit.

Because of the school's limited resources, issuances of this nature are usually unsecured or not covered by a mortgage of properties. The school's reputation serves as assurance that it will live up to its commitments.

Registration

A critical element in this funding scheme is the form and manner the debt paper shall be offered or sold to potential investors.

If it will be made available to the general public, the school has to register it first with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

The law requires public solicitation of investments, or securities, to be reviewed by the SEC to determine their compliance with certain conditions before they can be sold or offered for sale to the public.

The professional costs and out-of-pocket expenses of going through the registration process are not cheap.

The faster and less expensive approach often taken is to offer the debt paper to not more than 19 persons who are local residents during a 12-month period.

This arrangement is considered an "exempt transaction" which excuses it from the requirement of prior registration with the SEC.

Although exempt from registration, it is advisable that the "limited or private placement," as it is commonly described, be brought to the attention of the SEC by way of a request for confirmation that the subject security need not be registered.

A confirmation of the special status of the transaction by the SEC will put to rest all doubts about the validity of the offering.

Target market

If the limited placement route is taken, the question arises: Where do you look for the 19 people or less who will invest in the security?

From the experience of the schools that have used this financing scheme, there is no dearth in the ranks of their successful alumni who want to "pay forward" or express in monetary terms their gratitude to their alma mater.

The investment enables the alumni to help their school in its hour of need and, at the same time, get something in return by way of interests, minimal they may be compared to what they would get if the same amount were invested elsewhere.

Some alumni treat the placement as an advance payment of the tuition fee of their children in case they decide to enroll in the same school in the future.

To date, this writer has yet to hear of schools that undertook this limited placement arrangement reneging on their obligations to the investors or using the money for purposes other than those for which they were intended.

Not only have the school administrators concerned used the investments wisely, they have dutifully set aside a portion of their revenues regularly to cover the payment of interest and, upon its maturity, the principal.

Word of advice. There is no "one-size-fits-all" approach in this fund-raising scheme. Its terms and conditions will vary depending on the financial condition of the school and its objective for the solicitation.

(For feedback, please write to rpalabrica@inquirer. com. ph)

World Bank to jack up loan to RP

From page B3

The benchmarks for the $2.2-billion package are:

- a consolidated public sector debt to GDP ratio that is consistent with the sustained rapid decline in public debt to GDP ratio;
- significant progress in improving the tax effort and balancing the government budget by 2008 as targeted by the government, and
- significant progress on the broader reform agenda.

PRCI . . .

From page B3

Dulay said that with the legal setback suffered by the Cua group before the CA, the transactions involving the purchase of JTH Davies and the racetrack deal will now be opened to scrutiny and they (the group) will now have to explain before the court why PRCI funds was used to buy a P25-million shell company.

In effect, the CA has refused to stop the Makati RTC from hearing our case against the Malaysians and the Cua group, Dulay explained.

ANCHOR LAND ACQUIRES REAL ESTATE COMPANY

Barely two months after it was officially listed in the Philippine Stock Exchange with more than 86 million new common shares, high-rise condominium developer Anchor Land Holdings, Inc. (PSE: ALHI) is out to prove to its investors that it is indeed the fastest growing real estate company in the country.

The relatively young company signed a memorandum of agreement with a Spanish-owned real estate corporation in a bid to acquire prime lots in Binondo, Manila.

ALHI Vice - Chairman Mr. Steve Li said that their latest endeavor is in line with their plan to acquire more lands for high-rise residential condominium projects. "Acquiring a real estate company is one of the fastest ways of increasing our land banking."

In the fourth quarter of the year, Anchor Land is also set to launch their two-tower, 18-storey residential condominium project inside Aseana Park, an area near to the SM Mall of Asia. The project, covering a 6,500-square meter area, boasts of state-of-the-art office and commercial spaces at the ground and podium levels.

Anchor Land is riding high on the success of its first venture three years ago, the 33-storey Lee Tower in Binondo, Manila, and the upcoming turnover of its 2nd high-rise condominium project, the 33-storey Mayfair Tower along United Nations Avenue, Ermita, Manila in the middle of 2008. Along Ongpin Street in Binondo, Anchor Land is developing Mandarin Square, a 39-storey condominium building projected to be completed by December 2009.

ALHI - CHAIRMAN MR. STEPHEN LEE

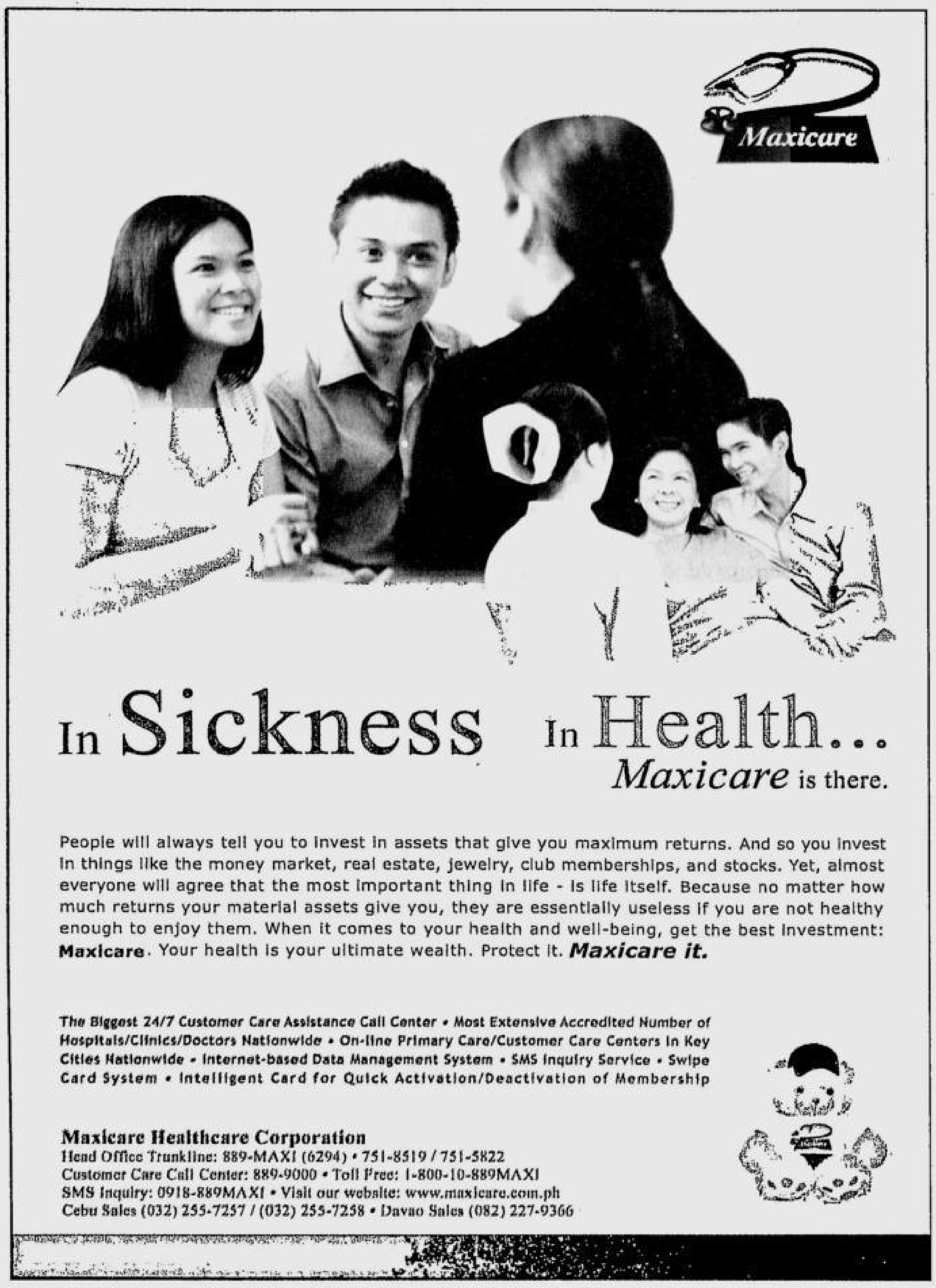
Mr. Steve Li stressed that their on-going projects and planned acquisitions are a testament to the commitment of Anchor Land to serve the needs of their niche market, the Filipino-Chinese families living in the Binondo area.

"We are eager to start another condominium project in Binondo because we know there is a huge demand high-quality condominium units among the Filipino-Chinese community," Li said.

Anchor Land has definitely studied their niche market well. The typical Filipino-Chinese unique way of life - living and conducting their business within the confines of their homes, and Chinatown - has led Anchor Land to focus their projects in Binondo area.

Since its incorporation four years ago, Anchor Land has been continuously building luxury condominium projects within Metro Manila, especially the Binondo area where it plans to redefine their niche market's urban living.

BUSINESS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Per DTI Permit No. 1382, Series of 2007

Proton increases export target

Firm eyes talks with Indian partners

BANGKOK—MALAYSIA'S CARMAKER PROTON plans to raise annual car exports to 100,000 within the next few years from about 44,000 forecast for this fiscal year, chief executive Syed Mohamed Tahir said on Thursday.

The state-owned company expected a substantial portion of its future exports to come from China and India where it hoped to establish footholds soon, Tahir told reporters.

Proton in July appointed Youngman Automobile Group Ltd. as its distributor in China where it hoped to sell 30,000 cars under a rebadged Europestar brand over 20 months from November, he said.

"We will first ship complete built-up cars to China and switch to CKD exports from mid-2008," Tahir told Reuters, referring to complete knocked-down kits.

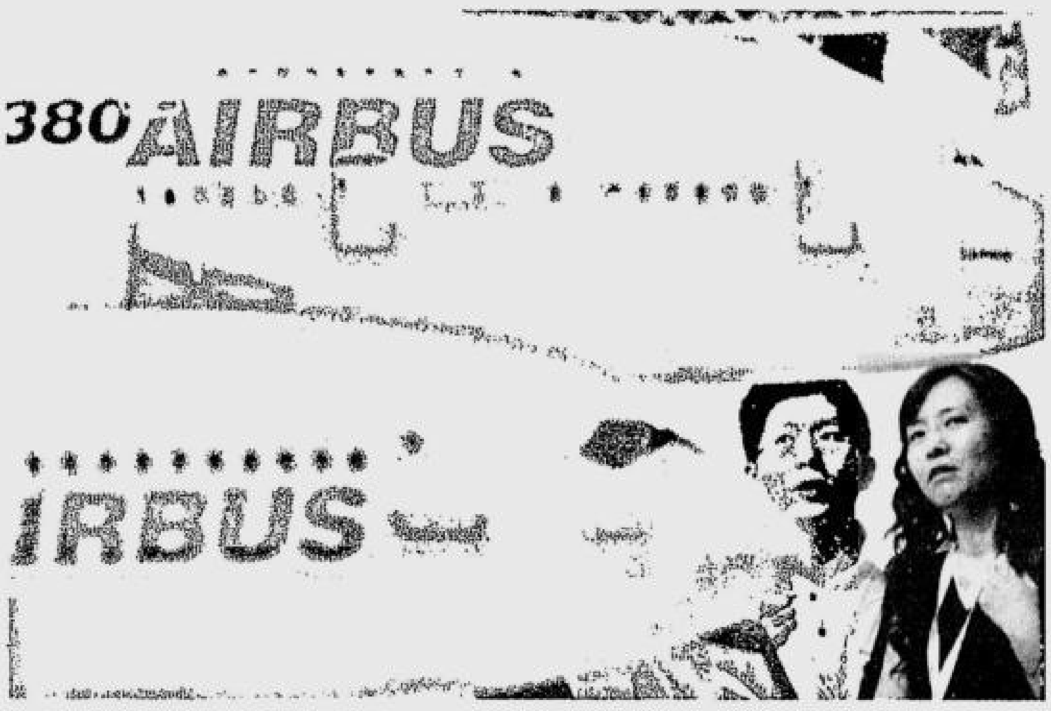
Proton also has begun talks with potential Indian partners, but it was premature to say when the company would enter that market, he said.

Of 44,000 Proton cars expected to be exported in the current financial year ending March 2008, excluding China, some 16,000-17,000 would go to Iran and 4,000-5,000 to the United Kingdom.

The Malaysian government has been in talks with Volkswagen, the world's fourth-largest carmaker, over the possible sale of a stake in loss-making Proton.

Proton, which faces a shrinking market share, wants to tie up with a global carmaker to boost its sales and turn itself around. It expects to return to profit this financial year.

Proton appointed Phranakorn Auto Sales Ltd. as its Thai distributor. *Reuters*



Visitors view a model of the Airbus A380 superjumbo, the world's largest airliner, in Hong Kong. AP

BA buys Airbus superjumbos

LONDON—BRITISH AIRWAYS announced a plane order worth $8.2 billion at list prices on Thursday, ending decades of loyalty to Boeing's 747 jumbo with a switch to Airbus's new A380 superjumbo.

The order for 12 superjumbos from Airbus and 24 787 Dreamliners from Boeing Co will replace 34 of the airline's longhaul fleet.

BA chief executive Willie Walsh told reporters the airline would use the superjumbo to make best use of its limited take-off slots at London's crowded Heathrow airport.

He denied the company had experienced political pressure to buy the superjumbo, the wings and engines of which will be built in Britain.

"There was absolutely none," he told reporters. "There was no contact, be it formal or informal. The decision was made in the best interest of British Airways. In the engines, the choice of Rolls-Royce was because British is best."

The mammoth A380 doubledecker has a maximum seating capacity of 853 passengers, though most airlines plan to use configurations of less than 650, which is still a jump from the 747-400, which BA currently flies with a maximum of 351 seats.

The aircraft will be delivered between 2010 and 2014, and BA said it had also taken options for a further seven Airbus superjumbos and 18 of Boeing's Dreamliners.

The airline said both aircraft types would be powered by engines from Rolls-Royce, which said it could make up to $5 billion from the deal.

BA said it was considering aircraft to replace its remaining 37 Boeing 747s and is examining the Boeing 777-300 ER, the Airbus A350XWB, as well as a stretched version of Boeing's 787 Dreamliner, the 787-10, which the planemaker has yet to launch.

"This puts big pressure on Boeing to actually launch the 787-10," said one London-based brokerage analyst. *Reuters*

Japan moves to attract more container ships amid slump

TOKYO—JAPAN IS TAKING STEPS TO attract more container ships to its shores, driven by concerns that the waning fortune of its ports could hurt the country's economy and industries.

Over the past decade, an increasing amount of goods from Japan have been sent to a neighboring Asian trans-shipment hub, such as the South Korean port of Pusan, instead of being shipped directly to their destination, adding to time and costs.

Ken Abe, a deputy director at Japan's Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport, said given Japan's expensive distribution costs, the move made sense if goods were being moved from areas on the coast facing South Korea.

"The trouble is that even large Japanese ports like Tokyo, Yokohama, Nagoya, Osaka and Kobe ... are facing the same problem despite the fact that it should be more efficient to ship goods directly from there," Abe said.

Trans-shipment of goods from Japan rose to 15.5 percent in 2003, up from 2.1 percent in 1993, official data showed.

Alarmed by the situation, Japan in 2004 launched a long-term project to expand and improve port efficiency.

Japan has about 60 container ports but the project, according to industry sources, calls for concentrating on three regional ports.

These are Tokyo-Yokohama, Nagoya-Yokkaichi and Osaka-Kobe, with some 52.4 billion yen earmarked for fiscal 2008 alone for improvement measures, up 37.5 percent year-on-year.

The measures include steps to trim the time needed for goods to be unloaded and moved through customs from the current roughly three days to one day, putting it on a par with Singapore.

It also hopes to cut handling costs by about 30 percent, which would make it about equal to Pusan and Taiwan's Kaohsiung.

Steps are also being taken to improve shallow port drafts.

Tokyo, Japan's top container port in volume, is due to have three ports with a draft of 15-16 meters to accommodate the world's large vessels.

An official at the Tokyo harbor authority said work on the first of the three ports started in April but won't be finished until by around 2013 or 2014.

Japan's ports have been eclipsed by their Asian rivals, worrying Japanese industries, although many have moved production centers overseas due to lower costs. *Reuters*

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Good food in a classy 'carinderia'

Tio Pepe, the latest addition to the Jollibee dining chain, comes up with a new menu that will surely draw the 'masa'

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

WHEN IT COMES TO SELLing quality food at affordable prices, the Jollibee group has few equals.

But while the fast-food giant is riding high on the unabated expansion of its Jollibee, Chowking, Greenwich, Delifrance and Red Ribbon branch networks, it is nevertheless aware that not all Filipinos can afford to eat its meals.

Jollibee estimates that only one of five Filipinos can afford to regularly eat at any of its stores, with cost as the main reason.

Jollibee, however, believes that all Filipinos should have access to good food.

It was this desire to "bring the joy of eating to everyone" that led the group, through Jollibee Foundation, to set up the Tio Pepe karinderia in Edsa Central, Pasig City, which started operations last July.

Tio Pepe has 50 food items on its menu—from *tuyo* and *champurado* for breakfast to beef *caldereta* and rice for dinner—which were tried and tested and subjected to quality control in the kitchens of the Jollibee group.

These were developed with the low-income Filipinos in mind, thus the viands sell for as low as P29 for *lumpia* and rice to a maximum of P49 for the beef *caldereta*. *Tuyo* and *champurado* goes for P18 and coffee sells for P5. All meals come with free soup.

Self-service

What's more, patrons get to eat their food in clean surroundings and with clean plates and utensils. It is a self-service *carinderia*, but there are waiters to help bring their meals to their table and to clean up after they've had their fill.

Just two months after it opened, the 120-square meter Tio Pepe counts messengers, drivers, janitors and even *taho* vendors among its loyal patrons. They happily eat side by side with office workers in their smart clothes who also want to extend their food budget.

"What we are trying to do is set standard for food service to the masses, make it convenient and sanitary for them," explains Jollibee Foundation president Grace Tan Caktiong, "It is also a way to help the entire *carinderia* industry to upgrade."

GOOD FOOD/ B2-3

Tio Pepe's
ALMUSAL
MERIENDA
P36
P32
P41
P8
P21

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Editor Aries Espinosa

'Winning OFW Tales'

WITH MORE THAN 8 MILLION FILipino workers scattered in 140 countries worldwide, almost every Filipino knows an overseas Filipino worker (OFW) or at least a member of an OFW family. Some people's knowledge may be limited to the stories on the triumphs and successes of these OFWs and their families as they can only see the house, appliances and gadgets they own along with a more comfortable lifestyle. What others may fail to realize or take for granted are the sacrifices and struggles that these OFWs and their families are compelled to live with in exchange for a better life.

These interesting lives of OFWs as they cope with living away from their loved ones while their families bear the absence of a spouse, parent or sibling are what "Dahil Sa 'Yong Paglisan (Pamilyang OFW)" centers on. Aired Sundays 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. on QTV 11, this weekly drama anthology hosted by Miriam Quiambao features powerful combination of upcoming talents and veteran actors and actresses as they bring to life the true stories of selected OFWs and their families under highly talented directors Gina Alajar, Soxy Topacio and Phil Noble.

Viewers of "Dahil Sa 'Yong Paglisan (Pamilyang OFW)" not only get to enjoy poignant episodes but likewise learn vital lessons in life magnified by Quiambao's counsel as a life coach regarding significant Filipino values that are crucial to the survival of OFW families.

As "Dahil Sa 'Yong Paglisan (Pamilyang OFW)" concluded its second season May 20, it is pleased to present Pamilyang OFW "Mga Waging Kwento" Mofya Special Series in its effort to enjoin the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (Owwa) in giving due recognition to exceptional OFWs and their families via its Model OFW Family of the Year Award (Mofya).

Now on its second year, the Owwa award aims to emphasize the significance of solidarity within the family unit to survive the multifaceted issues faced by OFW families. Owwa acknowledges the sacrifice, hard work and family teamwork necessary in maximizing the benefits of being an OFW family. In the search for model OFW families, Owwa acknowledges achievements in entrepreneurship along with the ability to generate employment opportunities. These factors establish how these OFWs and their families manage not only to cope but realize their potentials and contribute to the community as well.

The special series will showcase the tales of Mofya winners and finalists in their struggles and how they successfully cope with OFW life. These stories are truly in line with what "Dahil Sa 'Yong Paglisan (Pamilyang OFW)" stood for-inspiring others to do good for the family community and the country.

"Dahil Sa 'Yong Paglisan (Pamilyang OFW)" is produced by Segments & Clips Productions Inc (Saci), an infotainment company with the thrust on producing sensible films, radio and television shows that center on issues concerning women and children, migration, education, culture, health and the environment.

With the success of "Dahil Sa 'Yong Paglisan (Pamilyang OFW)" in its first and second seasons, Saci is bringing DSIP closer to more Filipinos who can enjoy and identify with this heartwarming drama series. Via RPN USA through the Viva Pinoy Pack under the Dish Network, Saci proudly presents "Dahil Sa 'Yong Paglisan... in America". Scheduled to be aired twice every Sunday including a primetime slot at 8 p.m. PST and twice every Wednesdays, Filipinos in 50 US states will soon be able to enjoy this weekly drama anthology the way viewers in the Philippines have.

For more information on "Dahil Sa 'Yong Paglisan (Pamilyang OFW)", log on to www.ofwpamilya.com.ph.

QYOUBEE LAUNCHED IN HONOLULU

Enjoying the Mabuhay-Aloha Festival at the Bishop Museum, Honolulu to launch QYOUBEE, a new calling service by Quattro Broadband in cooperation with Globe Kababayan, are (from left): Mito Ablan, QYOUBEE distributor (Hawaii), Sandy Bello, Globe Telecom migrant segment business manager, Albert Villanueva, Quattro Broadband VP operations, Alan Supnet, Globe Telecom strategic communities head, Mel Castro, Quattro Broadband president and COO, Heidi Dyangko, Globe Telecom international business development territory manager, Honolulu City and County Mayor Mufi Hannemann, Romeo Garcia, Mayor's aide, Nikko Acosta, Globe Telecom head of international services, Baybee Hufana-Ablan, QYOUBEE distributor (Hawaii) and Linda Chalk, Bishop Museum director.

PETRON DONATES P1M FOR SCHOOL DESIGN COMPETITION

Petron Foundation executive director Malu Erni (middle) turns over a check for P1 million to Defense Secretary Gilberto Teodoro Jr (2nd from L) in support of the National Disaster Coordinating Council's (NDCC) 'Be Better-Build Better' project. The project aims to conduct an international competition to design and build cost-effective and energy-efficient school buildings able to withstand earthquakes, floods and other natural disasters. With the DPWH, DepEd, DND, and the Private Sector Disaster Management Network (PSDMN) as major partners, the project hopes to have the winning design adopted as the standard for future public school-building construction. Announcement of the winning design is scheduled for March 2008 and its actual construction will be in Albay on April 2008. Petron's sponsorship of the project is in line with its own school-building program, which started in June 2002. Petron has already built 13 school buildings and will build another 10 by the end of this year. Also shown are Meralco Foundation president and PSDMN chair Alex Escano (left), Petron public affairs manager Virginia Ruivivar (2nd from left) and Camarines Sur Governor El-Ray Villafuerte Jr (right).

Honda adjusts CR-V prices

HONDA CARS PHILIPPINES INC HAS bared plans to adjust prices of its popular SUV the CR-V. Introduced in March 2007, Honda CRV has rocketed to the top of the SUV sales chart. To date, some 2,400 CR-Vs have already been delivered to happy customers. From its introductory prices, Honda plans to bring CR-V prices to normal levels. Effective Oct. 15, the automatic transmission CR-Vs will be increased by P10,000 and P15,000 for the manual transmission. Honda CR-V with automatic transmission will be priced P1,270,000 for the 2.0-liter variant and P1,470,000 for the 2.4-liter variant while the 2.0 liter with manual transmission will be priced P1,220,000.

The CR-Vs are both available with 2.4-liter (DOHC, 170ps @ 5800 rpm) and 2.0 liter (SOHC, 150ps @ 6200 rpm) in i-VTEC configuration that delivers a perfect balance of power and fuel efficiency.

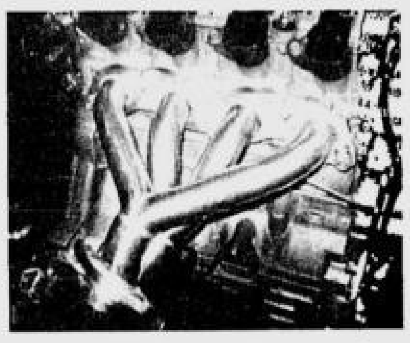
First introduced in the Philippines in 1997, the Honda CR-V boasts of a comfortable ride, being developed from a passenger car platform. While most SUVs are created from pick-up trucks, the CR-V traces its roots from Honda's popular sedan Civic, giving it the most comfortable ride among SUVs and perfect for the everyday commute.

With Honda's patented Real Time 4WD, the CR-V possesses SUV characteristics that more than meet the need for ordinary driving. The Real Time 4WD switches into 4x4 mode whenever it senses a slip in front drive wheels, without the need to operate switches. It automatically engages all-wheel power whenever greater traction is required.

The CR-V comes in exciting colors: Nighthawk Black Pearl, Ruby Red Pearl, Sparkle Gray, and Satellite Silver. Exclusive colors available for the 2.0-li model are Alabaster Silver Metallic and Taffetta White. For the 2.4-li model, exclusive colors are Brilliant White Pearl and Silverstone.

For more details, call any Honda dealership or log on to www.hondaphil.com.

Power up your Jazz



GET MORE HORSEPOWER FROM YOUR HONDA Jazz or Honda City with the addition of SpeedLab's Stainless Steel headers. Made from T304 tubular stainless steel that will not rust or crack, SpeedLab's Jazz headers also feature bigger exhaust tubing for increased exhaust flow, giving you more horsepower and torque for better acceleration.

Dyno tested and proven at SpeedLab's in-house testing facilities, these headers give an additional 6 to 10hp over stock. The headers are a direct bolt-on for all Honda Jazz and City models 1.3L and 1.5L, with no further modifications. Get them at SpeedLab at 871 Quezon Avenue, Quezon City, or call 376-4648/51, or log on to www.speedlab.com.ph for more information.

29th Family Rosary Crusade at SCC

THE STA. CATALINA COLLEGE IN LEGARDA, MANILA WILL HOLD ITS Family Rosary Crusade nine-day novena from Sept. 28 to Oct. 6, at the SCC Chapel. The schedule of this year's celebration, theme and Mass celebrants for each day are as follows: Sept. 28, 3 p.m. "The Rosary and the Youth of Today" - Bishop Profugo; Sept. 29, 3 p.m. "The Rosary: A Way Towards National Healing and Reconciliation" - Fr. Alfredo Sabado, SVD; Sept. 30, 8 a.m. "The Rosary and Its Relevance to the Signs of the Times" - Fr. Winston Cabading, OP; Oct. 1, 3 p.m. "The Rosary as Source of Strength for the Filipino People - Fr. Robert Reyes, OP; Oct. 2, 3 p.m. "The Rosary and Empowerment of the Laity Towards Integral Renewal" - Rev. Fr. Gerard Timoner, OP; Oct. 3, 3pm "Women with the Rosary…Transforming Lives" - Fr. Richard Ang, OP; Oct. 4, 3 p.m. "Building and Strengthening Communities Through the Rosary" - Fr. Enrico Gonzales, OP; Oct. 5, 3 p.m. "Mary, Wellspring of Peace and Model of Faith" - Fr. Christian Buenafe, OCarm; Oct. 6, 2:30 p.m. "The Filipino Family With the Rosary Towards Social Transformation" - Msgr. Sabino Vengco, Jr.; Salve Regina, Blessing, Despedida Ala Virgen - Msgr. Vicente Bauson. The procession will start from SCC Campus, right to Legarda St., U-turn to flyover, right to Sta. Teresita St., left to G. Tuazon, left to J. Fajardo, left to Earnshaw, left to Manrique, left to Lardizabal, right to Jhocson, left to Legarda, then back to SCC Campus. Everybody is invited to join this year's FRC novena and procession.

Siena QC Rosary Crusade turns 40

THE ROSARY CRUSADE OF SIENA COLLEGE OF QUEZON CITY WILL HAVE another milestone as it turns forty this year with the theme: "Mary, Mother of God, Queen of the Family". The novena-masses in honor of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary will be held at 7:30 a.m. on Sept, 27-29 and Oct. 1-4 and at 7 a.m. on Sunday, Sept. 30 at the College Chapel at the 3rd floor of the main building. On the ninth day, Oct. 5, the Eucharistic celebration will be presided over by Most Reverend Honesto Ongtioco, DD Bishop of the Diocese of Cubao after the novena prayers which will start at 1:15 p.m. at the Siena Hall. The grand procession will immediately follow the mass. There will also be an exhibit of photos of the Siena Rosary Crusade celebrations through the years at the main lobby during the novena days and the rest of October.

MMC symposium on Emergency Medicine

THE MAKATI MEDICAL CENTER'S DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY Medicine in cooperation with the Philippine College of Emergency Medicine and Acute Care Inc (PCEMAC) will hold the 8th Annual Symposium in Emergency Medicine on Sept. 27 and 28, at the SGV Hall, AIM Conference Center, Makati City. The symposium aims to update and help further improve the diagnosis, management and treatment of acute and urgent illnesses and injuries that require immediate medical attention. The 2-day event is open to residents, consultants, nurses, EMTs, and hospital administrators. On-site registration fees are P1,200 and P1,400 for non-PCEMAC member consultants. For inquiries, please call 888-8910, and look for any of the following: Dr. Eliza Teodosio, Dr. Amado Flores III, Dr. Venus Calingasan, Dr. Mary Grace Lim, Dr. Catherina Mauricio-Recio, or Dr. Marierose Mendoza, or e-mail emergency@makatimed.net.ph.

Isuzu sponsors RP-Japan Racing Festival

ISUZU PHILIPPINES CORP CONTINUES to show its full support of the Philippines' ties with Japan, as it sponsored the 2nd Isuzu Racing Cup that coincided with this year's Philippines-Japan Racing Festival (PJRF) held Sep. 2 at the San Lazaro Leisure Park in Carmona, Cavite.

IPC began the Isuzu Racing Cup last year, in which the PJRF commemorated the Golden Jubilee celebration of Philippines-Japan Friendship, or the normalization of diplomatic ties between the two nations in 1956. This year's PJRF was equally special as it marked the 140th anniversary of the Manila Jockey Club.

"The government of Japan is absolutely in support of this racing festival, which is geared toward shaping a more comprehensive partnership between the Philippines and Japan," said outgoing Japanese Ambassador Ryuichiro Yamazaki.

Even President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo endorsed the event. "This racing festival is an opportunity for Filipino and Japanese businessmen to interact among themselves while promoting horse racing as a sport," the President said.

Isuzu is likewise a firm advocate of Philippine-Japan relations. For the company's part, it believes that it helps foster diplomatic ties between these two nations by continuing to assemble excellent Japanese-brand vehicles that Filipinos can completely trust and patronize.

"Just like the Manila Jockey Club, which has promoted excellence in racing for 140 years, Isuzu will always be synonymous with the best in diesel transportation through its commercial vehicles and diesel engines," stressed IPC president Keiji Takeda. "Our fuel-efficient engines assist Filipinos in propping up their national economy. It is with pride and joy that we do our share in this country's nation-building program."

Just like the horses that participated in this year's Isuzu Racing Cup, the Alterra, the D-Max and the Crosswind all race toward a common goal. That goal is to consistently serve as a faultless example of Japanese excellence to the Filipino people, so that the ties between the two great nations of the Philippines and Japan will continue to grow stronger and closer.

THIS YEAR'S PJRF was equally special as it marked the 140th anniversary of the Manila Jockey Club. Executives present, from left, were IPC vice president for corporate business Arthur Balmadrid, IPC executive vice president Kazuhiko Sho, MJC chair and CEO lawyer Alfonso Reyno Jr, outgoing Japanese Ambassador to the Philippines Ryuichiro Yamazaki, and IPC president Keiji Takeda.

LITERATURE

PALANCA AWARDEE FOR ONE-ACT PLAY

The Carlos Palanca Memorial Awards for Literature recently conferred the first prize in the One-Act Play category to Debbie Ann Tan for her work 'Time Waits.' With Tan (3rd from left) are (from left) Marne L. Kilates, chair, poetry; Nicanor Tiongson, chair, full-length play; Frank G. Rivera, chair, one-act play; Nemie Bermejo, project manager of Palanca Foundation; and Sylvia Palanca-Quirino, director general of Palanca Foundation. Established in 1950 to honor Don Carlos Palanca Sr, the awards aim to serve as an incentive for Filipino writers to craft their outstanding literary works.

FORUM

You may ask: Why entrepreneurship?

By Anna Marie Periquet
Chair, Young Entrepreneurs Group-Asia Pacific

FOR THE LAST 14 YEARS IT has been my longstanding mission to promote the spirit of entrepreneurship among the youth not only in the Philippines, but in the Asia-Pacific region as well.

Entrepreneurship, defined as the ability to marshal resources in order to seize new business opportunities which have uncertain outcomes, has gained renewed importance. It has become central to economic growth in light of the rapid advancement of information technology and growing importance of knowledge.

The new economy now calls for innovative ideas, individual initiative, rather than organizational discipline, adjustability and greater speed in taking decisions, which I must say is what entrepreneurship is all about.

The renewed importance of entrepreneurship is reflected in the 11th Apec Ministerial Meeting of SMEs held in Chile in 2004. The ministers welcomed the "Santiago Agenda on Entrepreneurship" which identified best entrepreneurial practices and reinforced the need for their implementation.

The agenda seeks to share the experiences of Apec member-economies in creating a healthy business environment to foster growth and innovation for SMEs. It calls for public sector intervention in the regional economy to ensure that entrepreneurship promotion policies are developed to promote growth and job creation as well as encourage SME innovation.

In addition to ways to promote new ventures, the agenda acknowledges the justification for public intervention for reasons of overcoming economic instability, disadvantages based on ethnicity, imbalances between rural and urban development, and gender inequity.

While priority accorded to individual objectives of the agenda varies between economies, specific areas have been identified where public intervention and the development of stronger policies for entrepreneurship promotion may be particularly useful.

Further, a series of recommendations and actions have been noted of each of these four areas: developing human capital, access to funding, removing barriers to new business creation, and innovation and technology.

Very much alive

Entrepreneurship is very much alive in the Philippines. The great bulk of local enterprises are micro-enterprises, making up 91.9 percent, with small and medium enterprises (SMEs) comprising only 7.8 percent of the total number of enterprises. Large enterprises account for a mere 0.33 percent of total enterprises.

The Philippine government recognizes that entrepreneurship is a strategic intervention that could hasten rural development process. Among the 10-point agenda of President Macapagal-Arroyo is the creation of six million jobs in six years through more opportunities given to entrepreneurs.

Furthermore, the President had created the Office of the Presidential Consultant for Entrepreneurship in 2005 whose mandate is the creation of three million entrepreneurs by the end of Ms Arroyo's term in 2010.

PERIQUET JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

'I think given the right exposure, opportunities and training, the entrepreneurial talents of more young Filipinos will surely surface.'

In addition, the Philippines also enacted Republic Act No. 9178, a law that promotes the establishment of Barangay Micro Business Enterprises by providing incentives and benefits in promoting the formation of micro enterprises, which serve as seedbeds of Filipino entrepreneurial talents, by giving them fiscal and non-fiscal incentives that will help them survive and grow into viable enterprises.

Recognizing the need for a framework and detailed strategies to promoting the culture of entrepreneurship and of developing the SME sector, the Philippines has prepared the National SME Agenda which has now been integrated into a Medium Enterprise Development Plan for 2006-2010.

The main objective of the agenda is the expansion of the enterprise by graduating micro and small enterprise to higher levels of business undertakings and upgrading their productivity and value added capabilities. It has five functional areas, namely: financing, human resource development and entrepreneurship training, market development, product development, and advocacy for enabling environment.

The SME Development Plan 2004 to 2010 aims to transform the SME sector into a significant contributor to national development by 2010. This vision shall be attained through clear and integrated strategies to attain global competitiveness for Philippine SMEs, within a supportive operating domestic climate. The plan details strategies and corresponding programs drawn up through extensive and joint efforts between the private business sector and concerned government entities.

PCCI as catalyst

The Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI), the biggest business organization in the Philippines, recognizes that entrepreneurship is a critical element of SME development and in national economic progress.

As such, PCCI is a critical catalyst in building globally competitive enterprises in partnership with local chambers and other business organizations. This vision is achieved through focused advocacy for business growth, strategic business services, particularly small and medium enterprises, and national and international business networking resulting in sustainable economic growth for the long term benefit of our business and people.

In pursuit of this mission, the PCCI committee on entrepreneurship has implemented several programs and activities on entrepreneurial development. These include, among others, interaction and collaboration among PCCI entrepreneur members through database building, roundtable discussions, enhancement of entrepreneurial opportunities through PCCI's nationwide network, conduct of entrepreneurship seminars in universities for students, conduct of management and skills training courses for existing and prospective entrepreneurs and their workforce, and the conduct of best business plan competitions.

Some people say Filipinos are not of the entrepreneurial kind. They say this with the observation that most of us have that employee mentality. A student leaves school with high hopes of getting a job at some firm, without having considered that he could start up his own business and be his own boss.

While this may be true, I would still prefer to think that given the right exposure, opportunities and training, the entrepreneurial talents and capabilities of more young Filipinos will surely surface. Our nation is still young, and we are still discovering our strengths and weaknesses.

Perhaps it is early to say what we can or cannot do. Things do change, and change constantly. This is why I look at things positively. As things change, we can always hope that they change for the better, for the common good of the country.

Our generation is most fortunate because there is a heightened attention given to the youth sector today, not only within the country but globally as well, in the opportunities surrounding entrepreneurship.

And why not? The youth comprises 60 percent of our population. From a business perspective, this sector is a large market segment just by the sheer number of young people and their varied interests. However, it does not stop there.

With that sheer number of young people, multiplied to their numerous interests, imagine the countless ideas and talents that this sector could contribute to society. However, it is this sector that is sadly lacking in resources and opportunities.

Yet, the good news is that more and more attention is being given to the youth by government and nongovernment agencies alike.

Ever since, I have pinned my high hopes on the strength of entrepreneurship. I have always espoused that it serves as the anchor to any business and economy.

I also believe that it is a solution to the alarming problem of poverty, unemployment and underemployment many developing countries are facing today.

I believe the entrepreneurial talent of a business person can be nurtured with the right environment. This does not only refer to the legal and regulatory framework nor the financial resources and institutions nor training programs of a country for entrepreneurs.

Equally important are the business practices and social attitudes of the country on entrepreneurs and entrepreneurship. Studies show that countries that have recognized entrepreneurs and entrepreneurship have generally showed better economic performance in these challenging times.

In these countries, developing entrepreneurs and entrepreneurship does not only mean changing the mindset of business persons but also the attitude of society toward them. Entrepreneurs can only become more successful in a society that embraces positive aspects of entrepreneurship.

The dynamic state of entrepreneurship in the Philippines is a clear indication of a better and brighter future for the economy.

Good food in a classy 'carinderia'

From page B2-1

It is her belief that the masses also deserve service and quality that the richer Filipinos get, and often take for granted. They do not have to make do with eating in unhygienic surroundings.

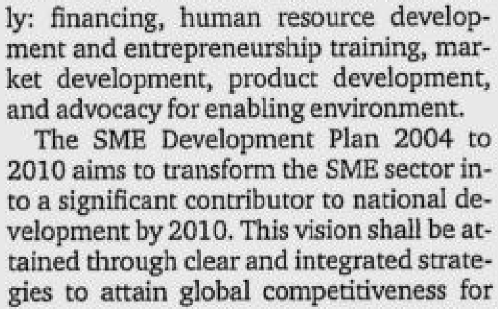
Tan Caktiong says it took about a year for the foundation, with the support of Chowking chief executive officer Rafael dela Rosa, to transform Tio Pepe from vision to reality.

This is because the Chowking management team and cooks spent a lot of time and effort on preparing all the ingredients that will make a good restaurant concept—menu, systems, even pricing—because Tio Pepe is envisioned to be a self-sustaining restaurant.

Doing very well

Dela Rosa says he chose the name "Tio Pepe" because all Filipinos have a favorite uncle, that special relative the family can count on for treats, and Pepe is a name that everybody understands, across geographies and generations.

Tio Pepe has struck a chord with the masses and Dela Rosa couldn't be happier.



THE OPENING of Tio Pepe was graced by a *taho* vendor, one of its target customers.

"The first store is doing very well because of affordable, delicious products, fast service, clean store and appeal to broad segments of customers from D to B," Dela Rosa says, "the learnings provide a sense of exciting possibilities for expansion."

Local suppliers

Tan Caktiong adds that the plan is to perfect the Tio Pepe system first before eventually getting small entrepreneurs to cooperate in the project by becoming preferred suppliers.

She explains that strengthening the country's network of vegetables, meat and seasonings suppliers is part of the foundation's vision of helping provide livelihood to Filipinos.

Connecting Tio Pepe directly to suppliers will also help keep the food prices low, while giving increased income to the entrepreneurs in the countryside.

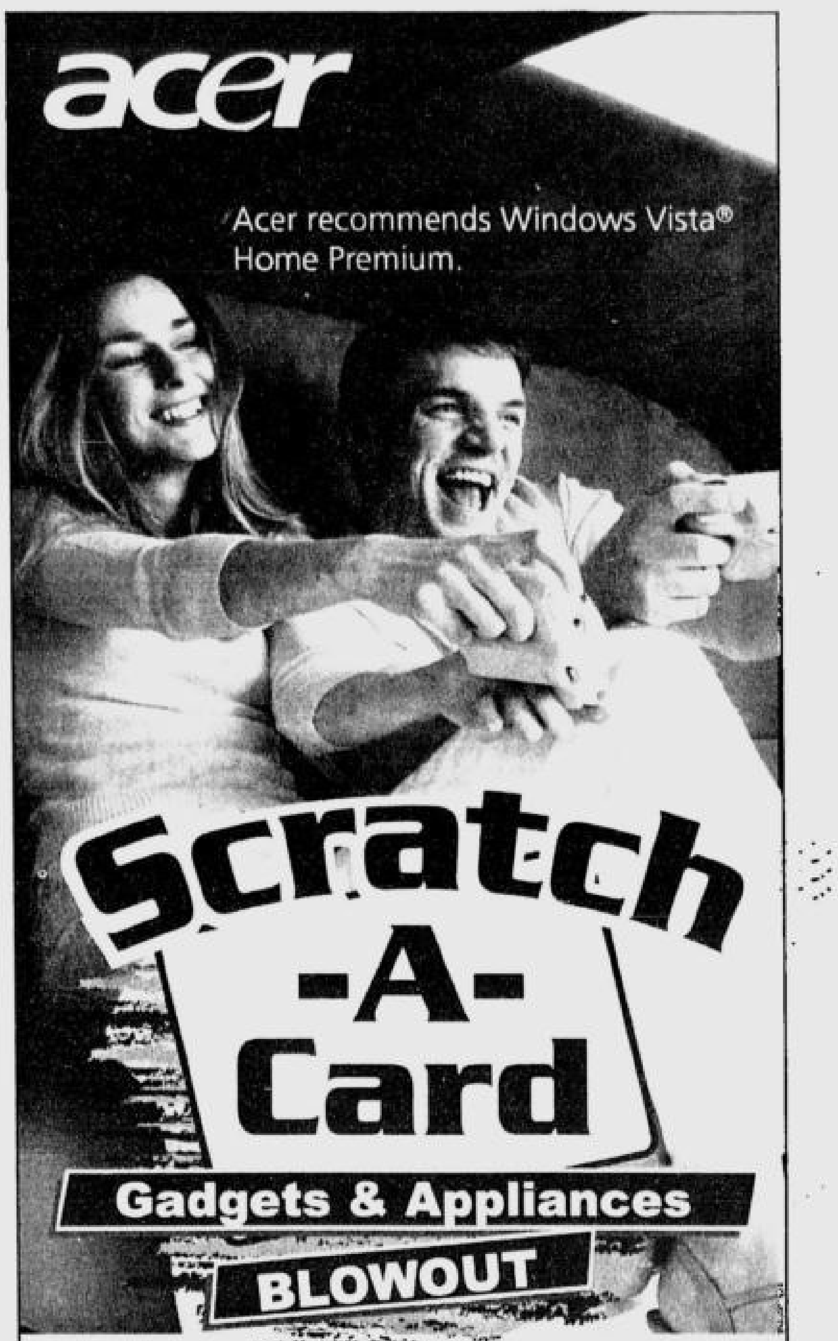
Once that supply chain is solidified, Tio Pepe will likewise be opened to franchising, but will be limited to small entrepreneurs who are looking to build a business.

The foundation is looking to build similar supplier relationships for the other Jollibee concepts.

Chowking, for instance, has tapped a farmers' group in Bulacan to supply the store with chili pepper, which it currently imports from China, while Jollibee is working at developing suppliers of white onions in Nueva Ecija.

Tan Caktiong says that by doing these projects, the entrepreneurs will directly benefit from the group's growth both here and abroad.

This should make the group's food taste even better.



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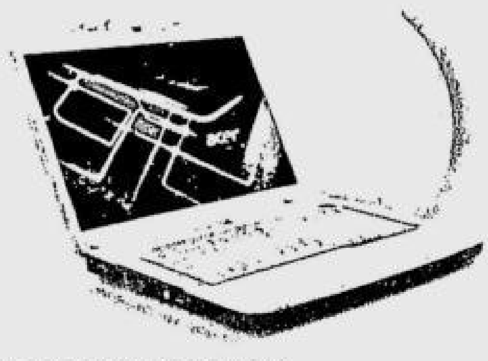

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Farmers' co-op bank bats for quality labeling

Move aimed at making clients' products competitive

By Delmar Cariño
Inquirer Northern Luzon

LA TRINIDAD, BENGUET—THE PROVINCE'S biggest cooperative bank for vegetable farmers is moving beyond its regular savings and loan services to push for two marketing initiatives aimed at making its clients' products more competitive.

The Cooperative Bank of Benguet (CBB), housed in a three-story building along the busiest street leading to the vegetable trading post here, is mapping out strategies to pilot what it called as "toll packing plant" and "quality labeling" for vegetables.

These two projects, according to Gerry Lab-oyan, bank general manager, will fill in the gap of the Department of Agriculture's cold chain system that will link the farmers' crops to institutional buyers in the metropolitan area.

Active player

These moves would turn the bank as a direct and active player of the province's multi-million vegetable industry, he said.

Lab-oyan, who also heads the New Benguet Chamber of Commerce, said the toll packing plant and labeling would complement the functions of precoolers and minimum processing plants for newly harvested vegetables.

"The facility will subject the vegetables to rigid standards of sanitation that will cleanse them of micro organisms. Once they are certified to be clean, they will be packed and marked with quality seals," he said.

The labels will contain information that the vegetables come from Benguet, erasing the wrong "branding" that highland vegetables come from Baguio City, he said.

Some problems

"And since the fad now for the food business is to promote health and wellness, quality labeling will become our farmers' competitive edge," he said.

THE BANK plays an active part in the province's vegetable industry

But the P10-million seed fund needed to put in place the toll packing plant and labeling project might meet some problems though, Lab-oyan said.

The province's organic entrepreneurs, Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and the New Benguet Chamber of Commerce are supporting the project.

But they said the absence of a provincial investment code and a provincial investment promotions development council could pose as obstacles.

Christine Abellon, an organic businesswoman, and Vilma Cruz-Abad, DTI provincial investment promotions officer, said there is a need to know the province's "rules of the game" on investments since the projects need a continuous flow of capital.

"We want to learn the investment climate local officials would provide us since the projects would be initiated by the private sector," Abellon said.

Board Member Nelson Dangwa, the provincial board's committee chair on trade and commerce, said there would be no problem since the province is seriously considering the passage of an investment code.

He said he would lead a working group to study tax and business incentives for local investors.

The CBB thought of the project after its successful tieup with Benguet State University here on the promotion of Arabica coffee.

The bank began its operations in 1992 with a P1.27-million capital. The bank now has P250 million in assets with 150 farmers' cooperatives as depositors.

THE BENGUET Cooperative Bank has grown by leaps and bounds, serving farmers who produce Metro Manila's daily supply of salad vegetables.

PHOTOS BY EV ESPIRITU

A CONCIERGE service that goes out of its way to satisfy clients has helped grow American Express Peso Platinum card member base in the past three years.

Amex raises bar for personalized service

JUST THREE YEARS AFTER ITS launch, American Express Peso Platinum card has grown its business by offering a concierge service like no other in the industry.

Just recently, the American Express Platinum concierge service contacted South African athlete Roland Schoeman, holder of three world records in swimming, upon a card member's request. Schoeman is based in Tucson, Arizona.

Grace D. Limjap, Amex card marketing head, said the member asked for help on how he could train with Schoeman. "The client wanted to know if we could make his dream possible and we did."

Amex got in touch with the athlete, who replied after a few days that he could conduct the personal training for the member.

This personalized service, nevertheless, is not unique to Peso Platinum card holders. Amex card members in the region enjoy a similar service. The bonus for Peso Platinum clients is that when in Hong Kong, Singapore and other Asian cities, they can avail of the same service—thanks to Amex's regional setup.

Thus, when a Hong Kong-based Amex card member required assistance in purchasing 50 cups of Haagen Dazs ice cream to be delivered to a friend in Makati the next day, getting support from the local concierge was easy. Amex's Philippine office assisted its Hong Kong counterpart in purchasing and delivering the product.

"Our concierge called the Haagen Dazs shops in Makati, and was able to coordinate with the Glorietta branch in guaranteeing 50 pieces of assorted ice cream cups to be picked up at the designated time. The concierge then arranged for the pick-up and delivery of the products to the Enterprise Center at 2 p.m. on July 6," Limjap recalled.

Also recently, Amex received an overseas call from another card member requesting for delivery of a chocolate ice cream cake with flowers to mark the birthday of his mother who lives in Alabang. The cake was delivered on the day as requested by the client.

Both here and in eight countries in the Asia Pacific, American Express Péso Platinum card members have become accustomed to having the concierge service do restaurant and hotel bookings for them, assist in sourcing hard-to-find items, and fulfill other unique requests.

"They know that Amex takes its concierge service seriously and will pull out all stops to please a client. That's what distinguishes our premium service from that offered by others," Limjap said.

Debt and taxes: Tax implications of securities lending transactions

By Jose A. Osana and Francis J. Victoria
SGV & Co

(Second of two parts)

TAX-FILES

AS EARLIER UNDERSCORED, the general rules and principles governing the process of securities lending transactions (SLT) under RR No. 10-2006 (old RR) as discussed above was reproduced in RR No. 5-2007 (new RR) recently issued by the BIR, except for a few significant modifications, including the following:

The new RR deals with the tax treatment of SLT involving the fixed-income securities lending program of the PDEx. Securities not listed or traded through the PDEx do not fall within the scope of the new RR;

While the old RR involves the lending of both equity and debt securities listed or traded through the PSE, the new RR involves only debt securities listed or traded through the PDEx or such securities acceptable to the lending pool system for lending under the fixed-income securities lending program of PDEx;

The new RR provides that the borrowing period cannot exceed one year from the date of the execution of the SLT confirmation notice, while the old RR provides for a two-year period;

The allowable collaterals under the new RR are fixed-income instruments (whether local or foreign currency denominated), equity instruments listed as components of the Philippine Stock Exchange Composite Index (Phisix), or cash, while the old RR allows cash, government or equity securities, or bank-guaranteed letters of credit as collateral;

As to the parties to the SLT, the new RR requires that the:

(a) Borrower must be a duly admitted trading participant of PDEx that is qualified in accordance with PDEx's fixed-income securities lending program;

(b) Lender must be an institution likewise qualified by PDEx under the said program;

(c) Lending agent must be an institution accredited by the Banglo Sentral ng Pilipinas or the Securities Exchange Commission, and also qualified by PDEx under the same program. No such qualifications or restrictions with respect to registration with the Philippine Stock Exchange are required under the old RR for borrowers, lenders, or lending agents;

The new RR introduces the participation of the lending pool system operator (which is the entity that accepts all securities intended for the transactions covered by the new RR, and delivers the said securities to the borrowers upon execution of an SLT) and the collateral management system operator (which accepts all assets intended as collateral for the SLT), and holds said assets for the benefit of the borrowers during the borrowing period;

The new RR requires the execution of a participation agreement by the respective parties in addition to the MSLA. The former is an agreement which signifies a party's undertaking and willingness to be bound by the program rules of PDEx and the MSLA.

Lending of securities

It must be noted that in an SLT covered by both BIR Revenue Regulations, there is no consideration involved which is an essential condition to consummate a sale transaction. Instead, the borrower merely puts up collateral to guarantee his obligations or debt under the agreement.

There is also a definite or limited period fixed in the agreement during which the transaction under an SBL/SLT is made effective. Thus, the relationship between the parties likewise ends upon the expiration of the agreement.

Under the National Internal Revenue Code (NIRC), only the sale, barter or exchange of shares of stock listed and traded through the PSE is subject to the percentage tax and documentary stamp tax (DST) imposed under the NIRC.

In this light, an SBL transaction has been properly classified as a lending of securities rather than a sale, and is therefore exempt from said taxes (See BIR Ruling No. 168-98 on the tax treatment of securities borrowing and lending transactions and Section 175 of the NIRC as amended by Republic Act No. 9243).

Also, the two revenue regulations provide that the delivery to, and return by, the lender of the collateral shall not be subject to DST, capital gains or income tax, and other taxes, if otherwise applicable.

But to qualify as a lending of securities, the transaction must fully and continuously comply with all of the foregoing requirements of the provisions of RR No. 5-2007 or RR No. 10-2006, as the case may be, with respect to the terms and conditions of the governing MSLA.

Necessarily, if the transaction is outside of the scope of these regulations, although described as a securities borrowing and lending transaction, the same shall be considered as a regular exchange, deposit substitute transaction, or transaction deemed as sale subject to the corresponding taxes under the Philippine tax code.

Likewise, compliance with the registration requirements of the MSLA with the BIR, as well as the necessary record keeping and reporting of all transactions encompassed by the SLT as provided under these regulations, are essential conditions to maintain the tax-free character of an SLT.

Freedom from debt, taxes

While, occasionally, some market participants have maintained the view that securities lenders are mere enablers of short-selling bringing forth ill effects on the market, it cannot be denied that securities lending has been embraced by virtually every central bank and stock exchange as a significant contributor to liquidity and, therefore, stability of stock prices (see International Organization for Securities Commissions, or IOSCO Multi-jurisdictional Information Sharing for Market Oversight Final Report dated April 2007).

In the long run, the inevitable effects of liberalization of markets, the entrance of new participants that will increase competition and loan activity, the looming mergers creating financial supermarkets offering multiple types of lending structures and functions, the increasing hedge fund transactions and sophistication of proprietary trading arbitrage strategies employed by brokers-dealers and financial institutions, and the improvement of investment industry disciplines as well as improved risk management techniques aimed at reducing operational and legal risks of SLTs will, ultimately, lead to the increasing demand for borrowing securities. Thus, a demand will exist for securities lending transactions as long as there is a demand for securities.

The issuance of these BIR regulations then becomes a welcome and laudable initiative. Nonetheless, the necessity and advisability of encouraging SLT by offering investors and market traders with debt and borrowing options laced with fiscal incentives in the form of freedom from tax burdens may yet be proven through the effective and positive implementation of the regulations in view of the legal and practical rationale for which they were intended.

It can only be anticipated that these measures of "freedom," ever sparingly as they come nowadays, may finally provide the stock market with that further allure for the search for that proverbial fortune which, though ostensibly elusive is, nonetheless, achievable by the individual and institutional investors, traders, or even by the fabled fortune seeker—all whose collective proceeds shall ultimately contribute to the building of a strong economy.

FINEX 2007 'Be Ahead in a Globalized Economy'

By: Abelardo V. Cortez
FINEX President

Our economy grows at a faster pace in 2007. We continue to ride on a wave of good news on the macroeconomic front. Business prospects look promising, inflation is low, interest rate is still low, and the economy continues to grow.

FINEX (with more than 700 active members), like any other large organization worth its name, must therefore extend the reach of its new vision, going beyond normal objectives of a nationwide organization of finance men and women, academicians, and entrepreneurs. FINEX must remain sensitive to the pulse of the Filipino nation, to the wishes and aspirations of our people particularly at this time when the world, as described by author Thomas Friedman in his runaway best selling book, The World is Flat, is "flattening" at the dawn of the twenty first century because it's becoming more and more interconnected brought about by Internet, wireless technology, search engines and other technical innovations.

FINEX must therefore perform the big role, as befits a large, credible national organization of principled, financially-savvy men and women to ignite the national call, to make our people aware and take advantage of the tremendous potentials of the present economic momentum in our country as well as in the Asian region. FINEX should be and must be among those leading the way, offering direction, providing hope, and seeing to it that a better economic future has become possible, very possible, for most Filipinos now and in the years to come.

As FINEX in 2007 beats the drum and sounds the clarion call to help our nation be ahead in a globalized economy, FINEX is assuming the role of a leading true agent of change in a peaceful revolution.

To everything, as the Bible says, there is a reason, a time for every purpose under the heavens. May the season of plenty come our way soon and help all of us realize our common hopes, our common dreams.

Code of Ethics for the Financial Executive

GUIDING PRINCIPLE

The Financial Executive holds a position of trust and confidence. This fiduciary role should be of paramount consideration in his dealings, both internal and external. He must act with utmost fairness and according to the highest moral principles, consciously and consistently pursued.

RULES OF CONDUCT

1. Loyalty to the Organization. He should be loyal to the Organization he serves and work towards the attainment of its legitimate goals and objectives. Should he believe strongly that any goal, policy or directive of his Organization is immoral or otherwise illegal, he has an obligation to seek clarification and guidance. If his belief were to remain unshaken, within reason, he should seek to have such a guideline rectified or removed. In an extreme situation, the Financial Executive should prefer to dissociate himself from the Organization, rather than be a party, whether actively or tacitly, to a grave injustice or fraud.

2. Keeping of Books and Records. He should fully, promptly and accurately document and reflect, in the proper books and records, all business transactions of the Organization, in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and in consonance with the Organization's relevant guidelines and policies.

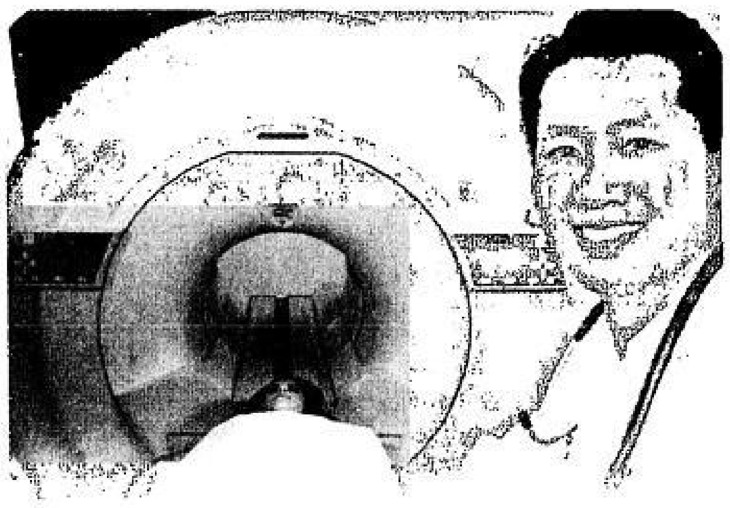
3. Resource Management. He should prudently manage and conscientiously safeguard the Organization's fund and assets, accurately reflecting them in the record and allowing access and withdrawals only in accordance with established Organization policies and procedures.

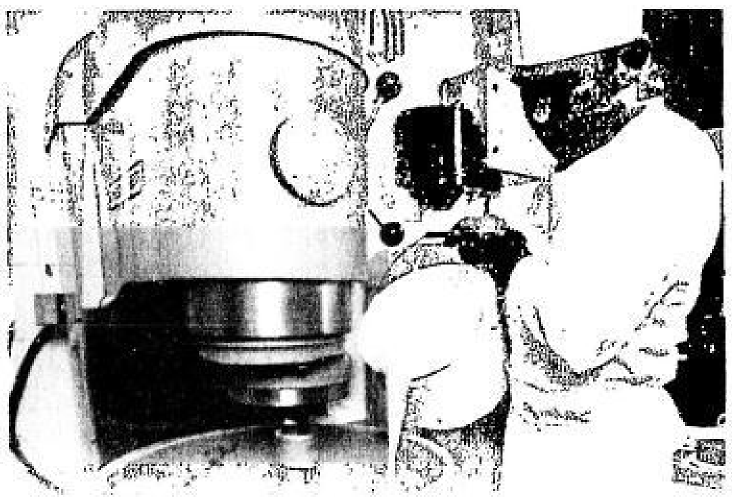
4. Conflict of Interest. He should act in the best interest of the Organization at all times, keeping himself away from situations which would tend to weaken his independence of judgment and action. He should not

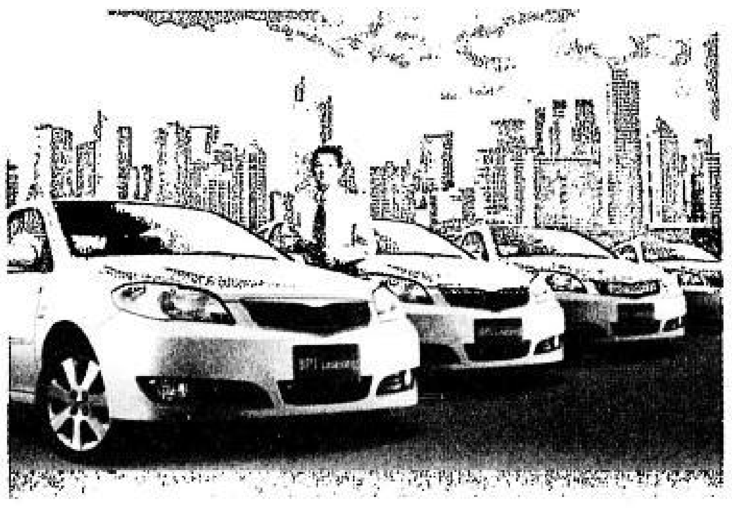
ETHICS/ B3-3

The Wiser Option

BPI LEASING answers all your questions on leasing.







Leasing vs. Financing

What's the difference between Leasing and Financing?
Under a lease, the lessor owns the leased asset. Under a loan, the borrower owns the equipment.

Which one requires a lesser initial cash outlay?
Normally, the borrower in a loan is required to pay a higher down payment of 20%-30% of the cost of the asset financed. BPI Leasing generally requires lower Guaranty Deposit from the lessee, and may finance up to 100% of the cost of the asset.

What other advantage does a lease have over a loan?
A loan secured for an equipment requires the borrower to pay Chattel Mortgage Fees. A lease does not require a mortgage on the asset. Thus, all things being equal, a lease is less costly than a loan.

Leasing vs. Buying

What is the main difference between leasing and buying?
Leasing and buying are two different methods of acquiring assets. The former finances the USE of an asset while the latter finances the OWNERSHIP of an asset.

What is the effect of owning an asset on your capital?
When you buy, you are giving your money away in exchange for the asset, which means you are tying up your capital over a period of time. Leasing does not have the same effect on your capital. Rather than investing the full amount at the beginning, your lease rentals allow for deferred payments tailored to your specific needs.

What other advantages does leasing have over buying?
At the end of the lease, you can return the asset or enter into a new lease for an upgraded model. This gives you a better competitive edge.

Why BPI Leasing?

Leasing is definitely more than just shopping around for better lease terms. Checking out what companies can actually offer is a smart move.
- We are the recognized leader with a reputation for reliability and innovative leasing solutions, backed by knowledgeable and highly experienced personnel.
- We are owned by BPI, one of the largest banks in the country, with over 150 years of solid banking leadership.
- We provide high value-added leasing programs designed not merely as financing options but as creative business solutions.
- Almost half of the country's Top 1,000 corporations lease from us, so you can rely on our LEADERSHIP & EXPERIENCE.
- We are known for our MARKET INNOVATIONS, like allowing our clients to view their account status and pay rentals via the Internet or through automatic debit arrangements.
- We are at pace with the latest market developments, and we strictly COMPLY TO INTERNATIONAL ACCOUNTING STANDARDS.
- Our customers have the added convenience of choosing the type of lease that will give them optimum benefit -- finance lease or operating lease.

The BENEFITS of BPI Leasing:
- **CONSERVE CAPITAL** by avoiding outright purchases that can tie up your company's funds in depreciating assets.
- **PRESERVE YOUR BANK CREDIT LINES** for other purposes.
- **ENJOY TAX-TIMING BENEFITS** because tax rental payments under an operating lease are fully tax-deductible.
- **SIMPLIFY YOUR BUDGET** with the fixed lease rental that protects your cash flow projections from inflation or fluctuations in interest rates.
- **ENJOY THE CONVENIENCE AND SAVINGS OF AUTOMATIC DEBIT ARRANGEMENT** that simplifies multiple periodic payments under a single collection.
- **AVOID EXPENSIVE MORTGAGE REGISTRATION COSTS** because unlike a loan, leasing generally does not require any collateral.

For a more detailed explanation of what we offer, and if you want us to come up with a leasing plan tailored to your company's needs, we will be more than happy to send a representative to your office.

Go for THE WISER OPTION.
Contact the leader in leasing, BPI LEASING CORPORATION, at 845-5630; 816-9261; or 816-9124.

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FINEX 2007 *Messages*

Warmest greetings to the officials and members of the Financial Executives of the Philippines (FINEX) as you celebrate the 39th Annual FINEX Week.

Your theme, "Be Ahead in a Globalized Economy," shows that FINEX is committed to constantly update financial executives of new trends in management in a seamless global economy. Since 1968, your organization has served as a forum for the development and advancement of its members, particularly in modern business practices, and in the promotion of business ethics and social involvement.

The Government, through Executive Order No. 34, has recognized the immense contribution of financial executives to the economy by declaring the second week of October of every year as Financial Executives Week. I ask you to take a lead in this observance by pushing our national agenda to move our country toward greater political stability, economic prosperity and peace and order. Join me as we strive to bring the benefits of a strong economy to every Filipino even as we put in place infrastructure necessary to attract more investments, create more jobs and beat poverty.

As active partners of government, I ask you to join me in our efforts to achieve a 7- to 8- percent growth rate in the next three years.

Mabuhay kayong lahat!

Gloria Arroyo
GLORIA MACAPAGAL- ARROYO
President, Republic of the Philippines

Warmest greetings to the participants and guests of the Financial Executives Institute of the Philippines as you commemorate the 39th Annual FINEX Week on 22-28 September 2007.

The theme of this year's celebration, "Be Ahead in a Globalized Economy," aptly bespeaks of the adherence of your institution to excellence and global competitiveness. Your endorsement of modern business practices, corporate ethics and social involvement brings the FINEX at par with the standards of your regional and universal counterparts.

The administration acknowledges the enormous contributions of financial decision makers in the enhancement of financial management, and the promotion of efficient and effective operations in the government and the corporate world as well.

I trust that FINEX will continue to support the national agenda of the present dispensation to beat the odds, achieve peace and sustainable growth, towards a strong Republic and a better future for the Filipinos.

Congratulations!

MARGARITO "GARY" B. TEVES
Secretary, Department of Finance

My warmest greetings to the Financial Executives Institute of the Philippines (FINEX) on your 39th Annual FINEX Week.

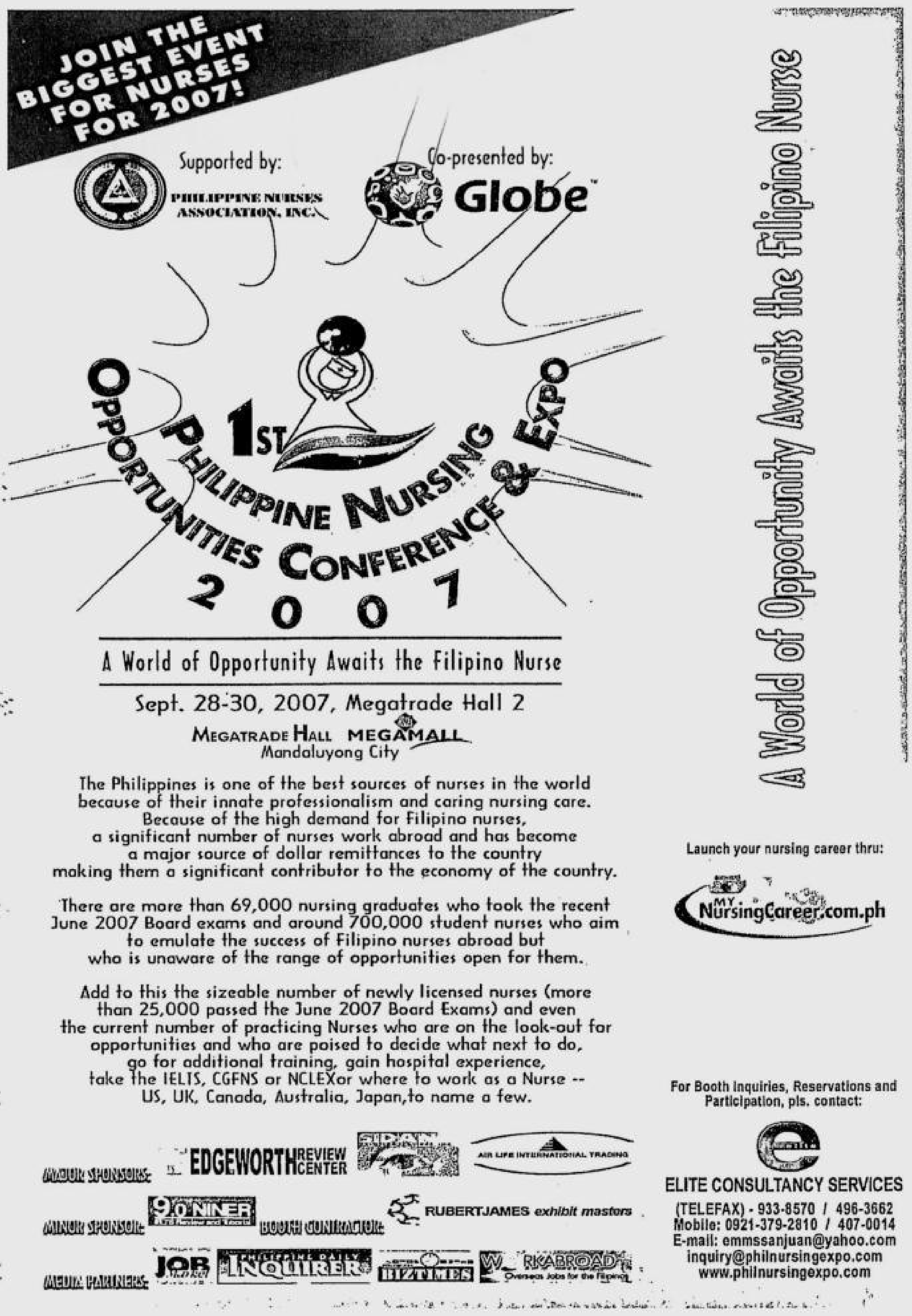
Your choice of theme: "Be Ahead in a Globalized Economy" bespeaks of your understanding of the prerequisites of sustaining one's lead in modern day business.

Undoubtedly, FINEX's accomplishments in the last 39 years are concrete proofs of your dedication and unwavering commitment in the pursuit of your mission. Your growing membership demonstrates your success as an organization, while your many initiatives make you indeed the forum for the development and advancement of your members, specifically in the promotion not only of efficiency in business operations but of business ethics and social involvement as well.

In so doing, you remain an important and active partner of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas in the sustained implementation of banking and capital market reforms aimed at ensuring the safe and sound operations of the financial system in a globalized economy. We, at the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, are therefore counting on your continuing support.

Congratulations and more power!

AMANDO M. TETANGCO, JR.
Governor, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas



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A World of Opportunity Awaits the Filipino Nurse
Sept. 28-30, 2007, Megatrade Hall 2
MEGATRADE HALL MEGAMALL
Mandaluyong City

The Philippines is one of the best sources of nurses in the world because of their innate professionalism and caring nursing care. Because of the high demand for Filipino nurses, a significant number of nurses work abroad and has become a major source of dollar remittances to the country making them a significant contributor to the economy of the country.

There are more than 69,000 nursing graduates who took the recent June 2007 Board exams and around 700,000 student nurses who aim to emulate the success of Filipino nurses abroad but who is unaware of the range of opportunities open for them.

Add to this the sizeable number of newly licensed nurses (more than 25,000 passed the June 2007 Board Exams) and even the current number of practicing Nurses who are on the look-out for opportunities and who are poised to decide what next to do, go for additional training, gain hospital experience, take the IELTS, CGFNS or NCLEXor where to work as a Nurse -- US, UK, Canada, Australia, Japan,to name a few.

A World of Opportunity Awaits the Filipino Nurse

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Our warmest greetings to the officers and members of the Financial Executives Institute of the Philippines (FINEX) as you celebrate the 39th Annual FINEX Week on 22-28 September 2007 under the theme "Be Ahead in a Globalized Economy."

This is a most auspicious time to celebrate the 39th Annual FINEX Week - coming as it does at a time of renewed optimism on the back of continued momentum in our country's growth. In the first semester of 2007, our GDP expanded by an impressive 7.3% -- significantly higher than the 5.6% in the first half of 2006. Stable interest rates and inflation rates, a strong peso, a resilient agriculture sector, vibrant industry and services sectors, plus election-related spending and intensified infrastructure investments sustained an upbeat economy and an attractive business environment. Contributing to the first half growth was the services sector at 8.6% (vs. 6.2% in 2006) owing to the vigor of finance, transport, communication & storage, trade and private services, and industry at 7.2% (vs. 4.9% in 2006) courtesy of the robust mining and construction sectors. From the demand side, expansion in household expenditures and higher public and private sector construction spending boosted overall economic health. (Merchandise exports in the first half expanded by 6.6%, reaching US$24.5 billion). A 16.6% increase in the net factor income from abroad (NFIA) due to continuing strong overseas workers remittances pushed up our GNP by 8.3% in the first semester - much better than the 6.4% in 2006.

Particularly notable, too, was the first semester's 30% increase in total investments registered with the BOI and PEZA to reach P130 billion. American businessmen topped the list of foreign investors in the first half with P26.3 billion worth of projects, followed by the Japanese with P12.7 billion. Top investment sectors included manufacturing, industrial service facilities, infrastructure, real estate, renewable energy/power generation, automotives, and IT services.

Even the local business sector is highly upbeat, with the country's leading business groups optimistic that this year's economic prospects will be better than last year's. This manifestation of strong investment confidence is buoyed by the positive reforms put in place by government, such as improved revenue collections, implementation of flagship infrastructure projects, and prudent government spending. To sustain this confidence, government is continuing to institute measures to help investors transact with the government with greater ease and transparency. The DTI, for one, continues to streamline its frontline services to reduce the cost of doing business and eradicate red tape in business transactions for the benefit of investors particularly SMEs. Indeed, both investors and financial institutions welcome the aggressive reforms pursued by the government, which the latter hopes to sustain to generate investments, jobs, social reforms, and services, and build on top of our gains. Towards these ends, the Philippine government continues to network and collaborate closely with its partners in the private sector in fostering an environment conducive to doing business, in promoting entrepreneurship, in increasing and sustaining investments, in pursuing reform measures, in empowering consumers, and in exercising good governance. In these formidable tasks, financial executives who compose FINEX have a huge role to play in improving financial management and in promoting efficiency in government and business operations to achieve our goals of global competitiveness. The knowledge, skills, expertise, and collective pro-active stance of FINEX member professionals, entrepreneurs, public servants and academicians who help formulate strategic policies and decisions are, indeed, critical factors for the Philippine economy to "be ahead in a globalized economy."

Mabuhay!

PETER B. FAVILA
Secretary
Department of Trade & Industry

On behalf of the City Government of Baguio and the whole of our city's constituency, allow me to extend good wishes to the member-participants to the Financial Executives (FINEX) Institute of the Philippines 39th National Conference in our endeared city of pines.

Indeed, nothing could be more laudable than an interaction where avenues for sharing of knowledge and expertise are highlighted, if only to charter our country's economic fate to greater height.

After all, the task of determining our country's most exalted expression entails a combined effort of government, civil society and other sectors of our community. Verily, it is not the task of government to empower people; but it is up for the people to empower themselves.

To this I say, thank you for empowering yourselves for by doing so, we are sure that our economy is in good hands as you strive to "Be Ahead in a Globalized Economy."

Rest assured that our local government shall remain supportive of such endeavors. May you have a most fruitful learning experience and the most memorable sharing of meaningful absurdities. Mabuhay po kayong lahat!

REINALDO A. BAUTISTA, JR.
Mayor
Baguio City

Greetings to all members and friends of the Financial Executives Institute of the Philippines!

We invite you to be one with us in this week-long celebration of the 39th year of FINEX.

The members of the organizing committee, in collaboration with the Cooperatives and Small & Medium Enterprises, Good Governance, and LGU Committees, have invited interesting speakers to share with us their invaluable experiences in the light of our theme "Be Ahead in a Globalized Economy," with entrepreneurship as the main thrust.

The Affiliates, Sports and Recreation, and Fellowship Committees have also lined up activities to add enjoyment to the celebration. Not forgetting our social responsibility, the Social Involvement Committee organized a feeding and community outreach program to connect with our less fortunate brothers.

All these were made possible with the tireless support of the sub-committees in charge of Technical Sessions, Exhibits, Budget, Ways and Means, Souvenir Program, Newspaper Supplements and the Hotel and Physical Arrangements.

In behalf of the FINEX Week Committee, I thank our corporate sponsors and advertisers for making this event a success.

CARMEN V.F. SERINA
Chairperson, FINEX Week Committee

In this era of globalization, the worldwide economic pie continues to grow. The global environment has become more competitive and the pace of change continues to accelerate. If the Philippines must survive economically and continue to grow as a nation, we must see to it that our country be not left behind. We must be shaken out of our complacency and go beyond our limited vision.

FINEX, as a nationwide organization, should and must always be a strong forum to remind our government, our people that we must compete; that we must acquire all the knowledge that will give us the edge; that we must not be afraid to ask for new structures, to seek new leaders, to promote new values and a new national vision; that we must push ahead and be ahead in this competitive global environment.

Globalization can't be stopped; the quiet times are gone forever. Action, decision, and energy are the order of the day to help our nation achieve its objectives. Kung hindi tayo magtutulungan, sino pa ang tutulong sa atin? Kung hindi tayo kikilos ngayon, kailan pa?

We must move on. Life can be better.

(Sgd.) ABELARDO V. CORTEZ
FINEX President

UP-Iloilo tops ICFC elims

UP-Diliman, Ateneo de Manila, La Salle Bacolod take next 3 spots

The recently concluded 9TH ICFC Eliminations was held last Sep. 21, 2007 at various sites all over the Philippines. UP-Iloilo bested 68 other schools to take the top place in the eliminations. This is the first time that a non-NCR team has won the eliminations. The finals will be held on Oct. 15, 2007 at the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Auditorium. This year also marks the first year a foreign school (Singapore Management University) will be participating in the Finals. The Singapore team was automatically seeded in the finals and will join the Top 20 teams from the eliminations.

The ICFC is an annual competition among universities and colleges sponsored by the JFinex Committee headed by Mark Yu with Tony Boy Ongsiako as Liaison Director.

University of the Philippines - Iloilo	470	1
University of the Philippines - Diliman	420	2
Ateneo de Manila University	420	2
University of St. La Salle - Bacolod	365	4
University of the East - Manila	360	5
MSU - Iligan Institute of Technology	360	5
University of San Carlos	330	7
Far Eastern University - Manila	320	8
New Era University	320	8
De La Salle University - Dasmarinas	305	10
Xavier University - Ateneo de Cagayan	305	10
Silliman University	300	12
Polytechnic University of the Philippines	295	13
University of Santo Tomas	290	14
De La Salle University - Lipa	285	15
De La Salle University - Manila	270	16
Manuel S. Enverga University Foundation	265	17
University of the Visayas	265	17
Ateneo de Davao University	265	17
University of Baguio	260	20

National Conference
Sept. 28, 2007
Camp John Hay - Convention Center

08:00am – 08:20am	Registration	
08:20am – 08:35am	Ribbon Cutting	**Hon. Reinaldo A. Bautista Jr.** City Mayor, Baguio
08:35am – 08:50am	Parade of Colors/National Anthem	**Baguio Colleges**
08:50am – 08:55am	Invocation	**PP Santiago M. Dumlao**
08:55am – 09:10am	Opening Remarks	**Mr. Abelardo V. Cortez** FINEX President
09:10am – 09:20am	Welcome Remarks	**Hon. Reinaldo A. Bautista Jr.**
09:20am – 09:25am	Introduction of Sec. Peter B. Favila	**FINEX EVP Grace P. Tiongco**
09:25am – 9:45am	***"Entrepreneurship and the Government Economic Growth Agenda"*** Key Note Speech	**Sec. Peter B. Favila** Secretary Department of Trade and Industry (DTI)
09:45am – 10:05am	**ROUDTABLE DISCUSSION: *"How A Financial Executive Can Graduate To Become A Successful Entrepreneur"***	
10:05am – 10:10am	Introduction of Speakers by Emcee	
10:10am – 10:30am		**PP Edgardo L. Limon** President INTEX HOLDINGS CORPORATION
10:30am – 10:50am		**Mr. Emmanuel V. Dueñas** President/CEO ACTRON INDUSTRIES, INC.
10:50am – 11:10am		**Ms. Czarina T. Malvar** President/CEO KARTINI ASIA
11:10am – 11:30am	**Open Forum**	**Mr. Napoleon T. Cabello and Mr. Rufino G. Ibay** Panelists
11:30am – 11:35am	Introduction of Mr. Senen Bacani	**PP Dave L. Balangue** Chairman, FINEX Foundation
11:35pm – 11:55am	***"Entrepreneur As An Agent of Change"***	**Mr. Senen C. Bacani** Chairman/President LA FRUTERA, INC.
11:55am – 12:15pm	**Open Forum**	**PP Vic Y. Lim** Panelist
12:15pm – 01:15pm	Lunch	
01:15pm – 01:20pm	Introduction of Mr. Samie Lim	**FINEX EVP Grace P. Tiongco**
01:20pm – 01:40pm	***"The Franchising Route To Entrepreneurship"***	**Mr. Samie Lim** President/Chairman Emeritus Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry/Philippine Franchise Association
01:40pm – 02:00pm	**Open Forum**	**PP Edwin V. Fernandez** Panelist
02:00pm – 02:20pm	**ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION: *"The Challenges Of Being An Entrepreneur"***	
02:20pm – 02:25pm	Introduction of Speakers by Emcee	
02:25pm – 02:45pm		**Mr. Roberto S. Claudio** TOBY's Group of Companies
02:45pm – 03:05pm		**Mr. Celestino Reyes** Reyes Hair Cutters
03:05pm – 03:25pm		**Mr. Carlo Anthony Dobles** President SPOOFS UNLIMITED INC.
03:25pm – 03:45pm	**Open Forum**	**Ms. Jasmin Agbon of Cagayan deOro** **Mr. Ruben Almendras of Cebu** Panelists
03:45pm – 04:30pm	Entrepreneurial Diagnostics	**Mr. Rex S.L. Resurreccion and Mrs. Angie B. Resurreccion** PASSION FOR PERFECTION
04:30pm -4:35pm	Closing	
	Masters of Ceremonies	**PP Santi F. Dumlao and** **PP Melito S. Salazar Jr.**

Code of Ethics for the Financial Executive

From page B3-1

only avoid the fact, but also the appearance of conflict of interest.

5. Relationship with Employees. He should treat employees under his supervision and control with fairness, objectivity and consideration. He should create an atmosphere conducive to the proper performance of their duties, to their compliance with the Organization's rules and policies and to their continuous professional development. He should observe due process, with a fine regard for employees' human, legal and contractual right.

6. Compliance with Laws. He should comply with all government laws and regulations, abstaining from any action or activity which may be violative of the same.

7. Contractual Obligations. He should observe strictly the terms and conditions of existing contracts and agreements entered into by the Organization he serves with particular attention to the compliance with the financial terms and conditions of such contracts.

8. Relationship with Third Parties. He should promote honesty and fairness in the Organization's relationships with its creditors, customers, suppliers, competitors and with the public at large. He should support clean, healthy competition and the free play market forces.

9. Professional Development, Social and Civic Involvement. He should consciously undertake efforts to upgrade his skills as a financial executive, so that he may consistently render a high level of service to the Organization he serves. He should, likewise, widen his own perspectives by participating in building-up the partnership between his Organization and the community in which it operates, and in balancing their respective interests.

10. Moral Uprightness. While recognizing his own right to privacy, he should nevertheless conduct his private and personal life with due consideration to his position in the management hierarchy, avoiding acts which would tend to reflect adversely on the Organization or to set an improper example for employees.

Kapit-bisig sa Kaunlaran

Sama-sama tayong naghangad,
kapit-bisig na nagsusumikap
at sa pagharap sa kinabukasan,
tayo pa rin ang makikibahagi
sa kaunlaran ng ating bayan—
sa bawat pamilya, pamayanan,
sa probinsya man o lungsod.

Kaya't sa aming ika-44 na taon,
patuloy nating pagtibayin
ang samahan at ang inaasam
na kasaganahang ating kakamtin.

1963-2007

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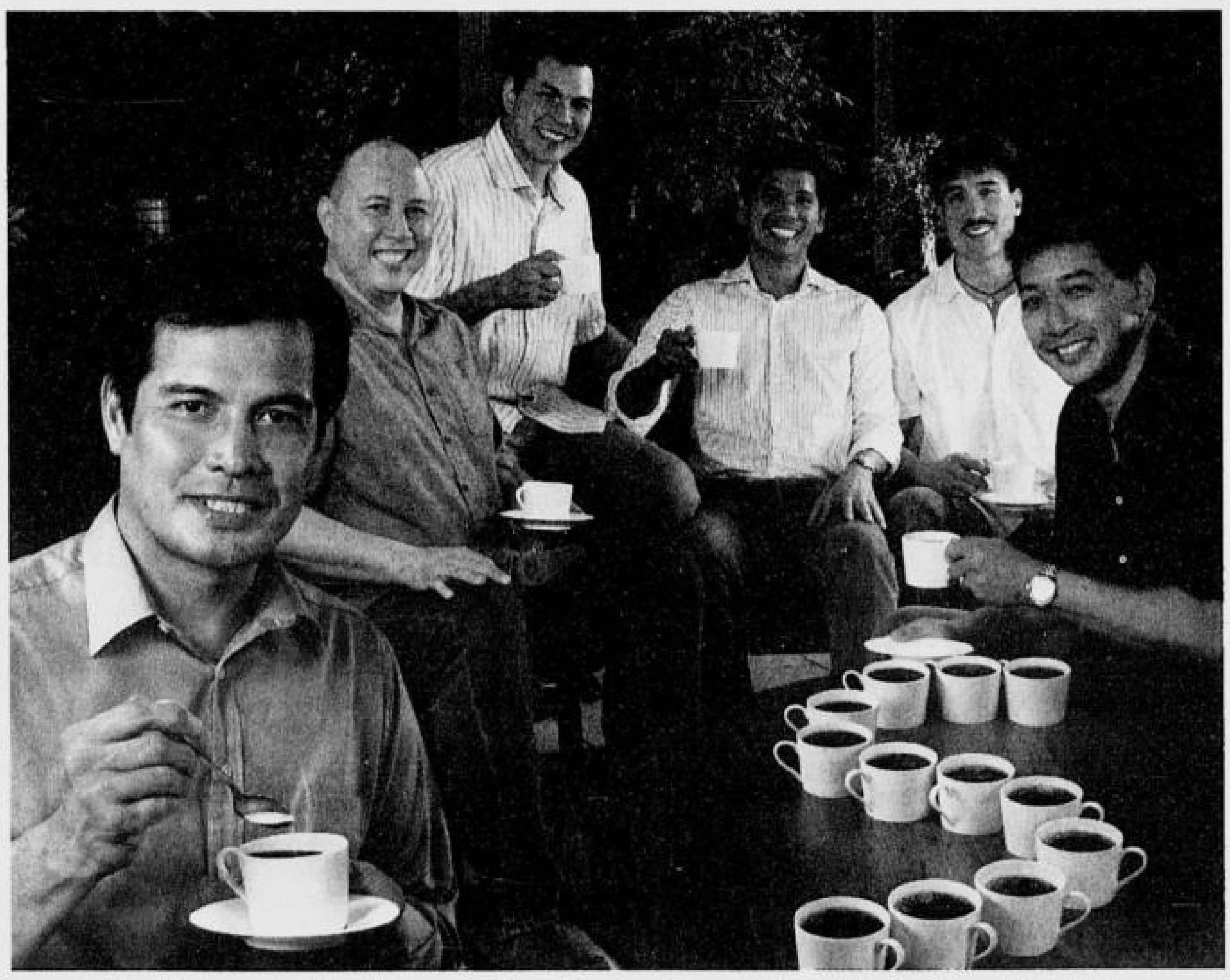
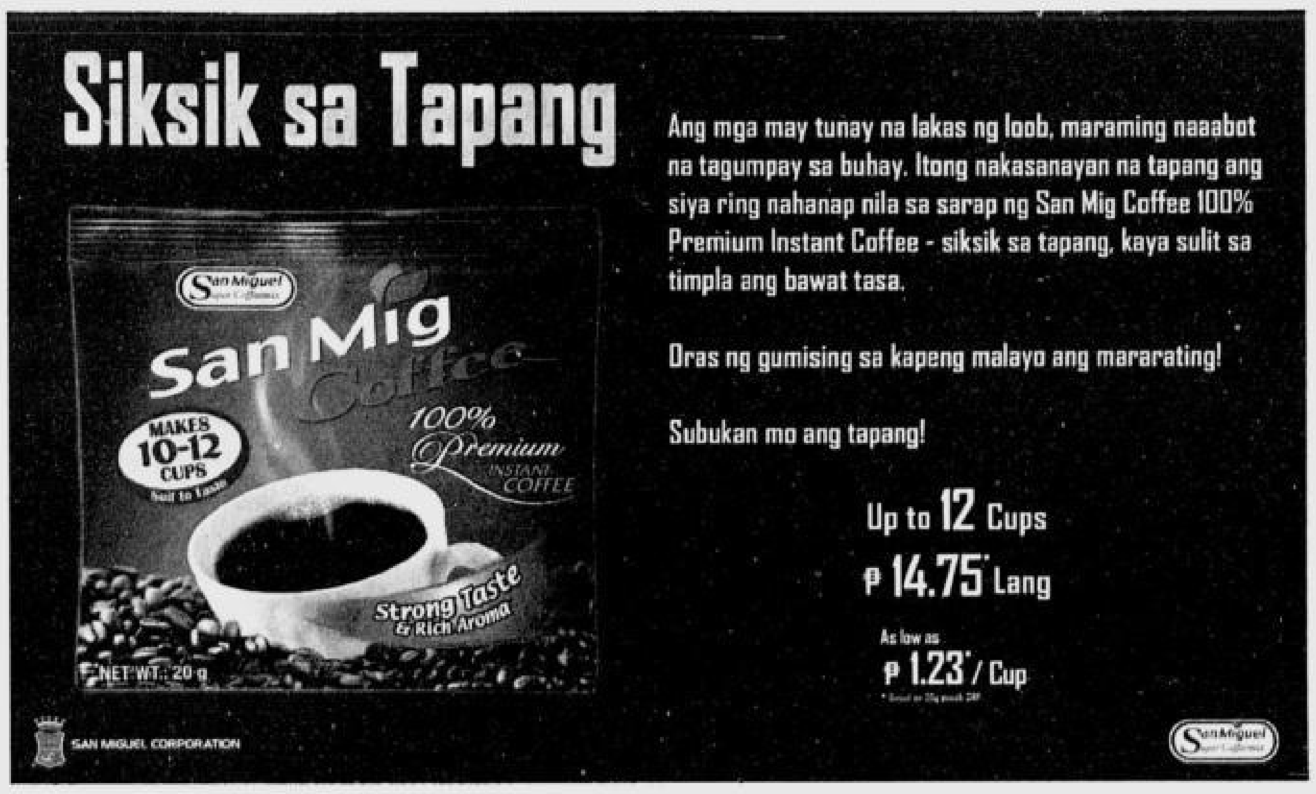


Alvin Patrimonio • Chito Loyzaga • Peter Martin • Hector Calma • Samboy Lim • Allan Caidic



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1976	Development of Financial Leadership
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1978	Financial Management in Economic Development: Business Initiatives in Government Planning
1979	Social Responsiveness of the Financial Executive
1980	The Financial Executive: the Total Executive
1981	Professional Development through Greater Involvement
1982	The Financial Executive: Catalysts to a Dynamic Tomorrow
1983	Financial Discipline for Development
1984	Discipline and Unity for Survival
1985	Responsibility for Reforms and Recovery
1986	Rebuilding Values: Foundation for Recovery
1987	Spearheading National Progress: The FINEX Challenge
1988	Sustaining National Growth through Greater Investor Confidence
1989	Values in Action: It's What We Do that Counts
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1996	Strengthening Capital Markets and Countryside Development
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1998	Reaching Out to New Frontiers
1999	The Financial Executive in the New Millennium
2000	The Financial Executive: In Pursuit of Excellence in a Global Setting
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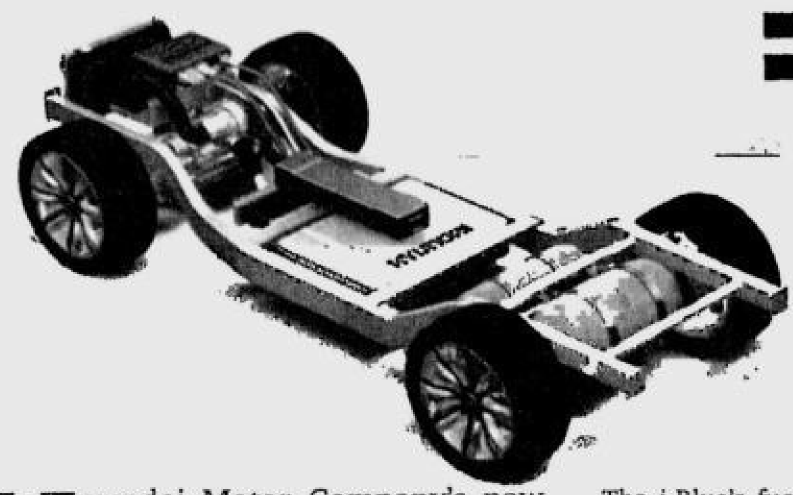


Hyundai debuts i-Blue Fuel Cell concept

Hyundai Motor Company's new hydrogen-powered, zero-emission concept, the i-Blue Fuel Cell Electric Vehicle (FCEV), made its world debut recently at the 62nd International Motor Show in Frankfurt, Germany. Developed at Hyundai's design and technical center in Chiba, Japan, the i-Blue concept is the designers' view of a future FCEV production model. The all-new i-Blue platform is tailored to incorporate Hyundai's third-generation fuel cell technology, currently being developed at Hyundai's Eco-Technology Research Institute in Mabuk, Korea.

Keeping with the show theme, "See What's Driving the Future," which focuses on sustainability and climate protection, the i-Blue demonstrates a significant step towards commercialization of Hyundai fuel cell vehicles. Unlike its predecessors which were built on SUV platforms, the i-Blue features a new D segment 2+2 crossover utility vehicle (CUV) body type. The smaller vehicle platform requires even greater engineering sophistication. This marks a step ahead on the path to develop mass-production models, as the fuel cell system is more difficult to integrate in a smaller body type.

"The i-Blue is Hyundai's first-ever model designed from the ground up to incorporate fuel cell technology, marking a tremendous leap forward for our R&D program," said Dr. Hyun-Soon Lee, president of research and development. "Our engineering team has successfully designed a more compact fuel cell vehicle, while still realizing the safety, comfort, convenience and driving range of a traditional internal combustion engine vehicle."

Hyundai is making tremendous efforts to reach mass production of hydrogen-powered fuel cell vehicles a reality in the next decade.

3rd-generation fuel cell technology

The i-Blue is powered by a 100-kW electrical engine and fuel cell stack. Fueled with compressed hydrogen (700 bar) stored in a 115-liter tank, i-Blue is capable of running more than 600 km per refueling and achieves a maximum speed of 165 kph.

The i-Blue's fuel cell stack is housed underfloor, not in the engine compartment as in the second-generation Tucson FCEV. This endows the car with an ideal 50:50 weight distribution for optimal driving and handling dynamics. Furthermore, by moving the fuel stack underfloor, the engine compartment is less densely populated, providing better air flow and cooling. The i-Blue drives almost noiselessly and passionate drivers will be delighted by the acceleration of the i-Blue's powerplant. Like its predecessors, i-Blue's only emission is water vapor, fueling Hyundai's unwavering dedication to FCEV technology as a viable, environmentally friendly alternative to the internal combustion engine.

Concept sports tourer

The i-Blue is a sophisticated and futuristic crossover concept sports tourer with the driving comfort of a sedan with all of the utility functions of a minivan. As its name suggests, the i-Blue has a next-generation environmental-friendly fuel cell system. But, it also is equipped with a state-of-the-art human machine interface information system presenting a glimpse into the future of automobiles.

Uniting Ying and Yang

The i-Blue FCEV has a dynamic and elegant exterior design, resembling TaeKuk, which is based on the philosophy of Ying and Yang. In this philosophy, opposite forces are unified in perfect balance and create something new. The i-Blue's body was styled by unifying two distinct geometric forms, the square and the circle, thereby creating a rhombus-like shape.

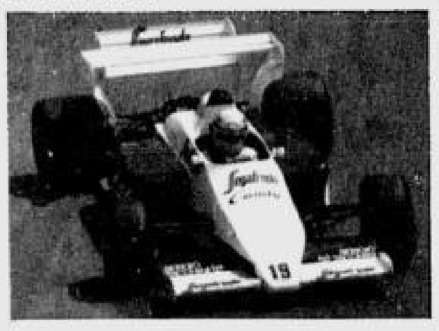
The i-Blue features a futuristic H2O flow-form on the inside, which results in a relaxing, stretched-out seating position for the driver and passengers.

Racer's edge is in the wheel

WHEEL GALLERY, THE COMPANY WHO popularized the "Bling" phenomena in the country, takes the level of competition up a notch with the launch of England's finest, Avon Tires and one of America's most popular brands, Starfire tires. Launched recently at the Wheel Gallery 5th Anniversary bash, Sammy Liuson, president of Wheel Gallery, presented the ZZ3. "The superb grip of the ZZ3 gives drivers plenty of advanced warning to slow down and provide a great feeling of confidence," explains Liuson. Starfire, on the other hand, uses Cooper technology and undergoes the same stringent quality and testing requirements as Cooper and Avon tires. Visit Wheel Gallery at 318 Santolan Road corner M. Paterno, San Juan, or call 724-2739 or 726-0965 or log on to www.conceptonewheels.com.

Senna's choice

TWENTY YEARS ON SINCE AYRTON Senna's first victory in the Principality of Monaco, Massimo Zanetti Beverage Group celebrates the memory of the Brazilian champion at the Monte Carlo Circuit. The Monaco Senna Celebration, as sponsored by the famous Italian café Segafredo Zanetti, recently revived the unforgettable moments of the great champion's life and career by recreating the Monegasque circuit and displaying a unique collection of personal belongings. In the Philippines, enjoy a slice of Italy and taste the espresso and pasta enjoyed by Ayrton Senna at Segafredo Zanetti, Greenhills situated at the IEB Building, corner of Wilson Street and Ortigas Avenue. Belissimo!



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‘Laguna da Bay-sikel’

By Aries B. Espinosa
Photos by Eugene Araneta, Gerry Jano and Anne Jambora

NEWSPAPER BOYS AND GIRLS ARE KNOWN DEADLINE beaters. That’s an immovable, universal, and unarguable truth. But could they beat this deadline: bike around the 220-km Laguna de Bay within 12 hours?

Now that’s a challenge requiring more than just the power of the pen.

In fact, they would need to put their most powerful legs forward tens of thousands of times, and put their foot down—and up (on the pedal)—as many times.

The distance solicits a collective gasp of disbelief among the colleagues I threw this dare on. “Impossible” was mentioned not a few times. But was there ever a difficult challenge not worth undertaking?

“And it’s there. So why not do it?” That seemed to convince them, once and for all.

So, we took on the challenge last Sunday. It was a drizzling 6 in the morning as we started the tour from the UP Diliman oval.

Here’s a pictorial “timeline” of our ordeal, er, adventure.

Other bikers who may want to do their own single-day 200-km ride would find the Laguna de Bay loop convenient. It’s near Metro Manila, and there are lots of refreshment/food stops along the way. Plenty of Spanish-era churches and majestic views of Laguna de Bay gives you an excuse to bring your high-tech digital cameras.

On the downside, you will be sharing the well-paved roads with smoke-belching jeeps and trucks (especially in areas nearer Metro Manila). Better have your face masks ready when you take on this route.

We won’t “bike around the bushes,” so to speak. To make a long story short, well, we ended up short of our target by around 60 km. By the time we were in Calamba, 160 km into the route, it was already too dark, and Sunday traffic back to Metro Manila was too congested. With heavy hearts (and thighs), we loaded our bikes on our support vehicles and called it a day.

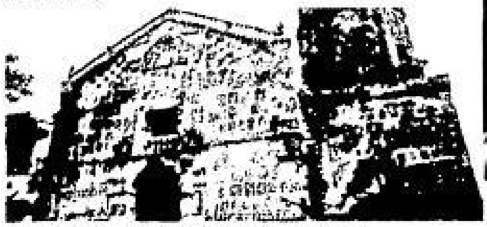
Our conclusion: The 220-km route is still doable—if we cut back on our *kodakan* stops. But then, we groaned, where’s the fun in that?

(The Inquirer Cycling Club was guided and paced by Cycling Advocates and Adventures (Cycad) led by Ramoncito “Monchie” Garcia. Biker groups who wish to tie up with Cycad can call Monchie at 0918-7942803. Extra bike loading capacity was provided by Thule roof racks. To know how to load up your own ride with 100-percent Swedish machine made ISO-quality racks, call Thule-EGR Showrooms in Ortigas Avenue (744-6367) and Pasong Tamo (892-7847), or visit www.thule.com).

6:15 a.m. We leave UP Diliman with jerseys and nostrils still clean

7 a.m. Snack time at Bangyad, Taytay, 15 km away

8 a.m. - Breakfast In Morong, Rizal, 36 km away.



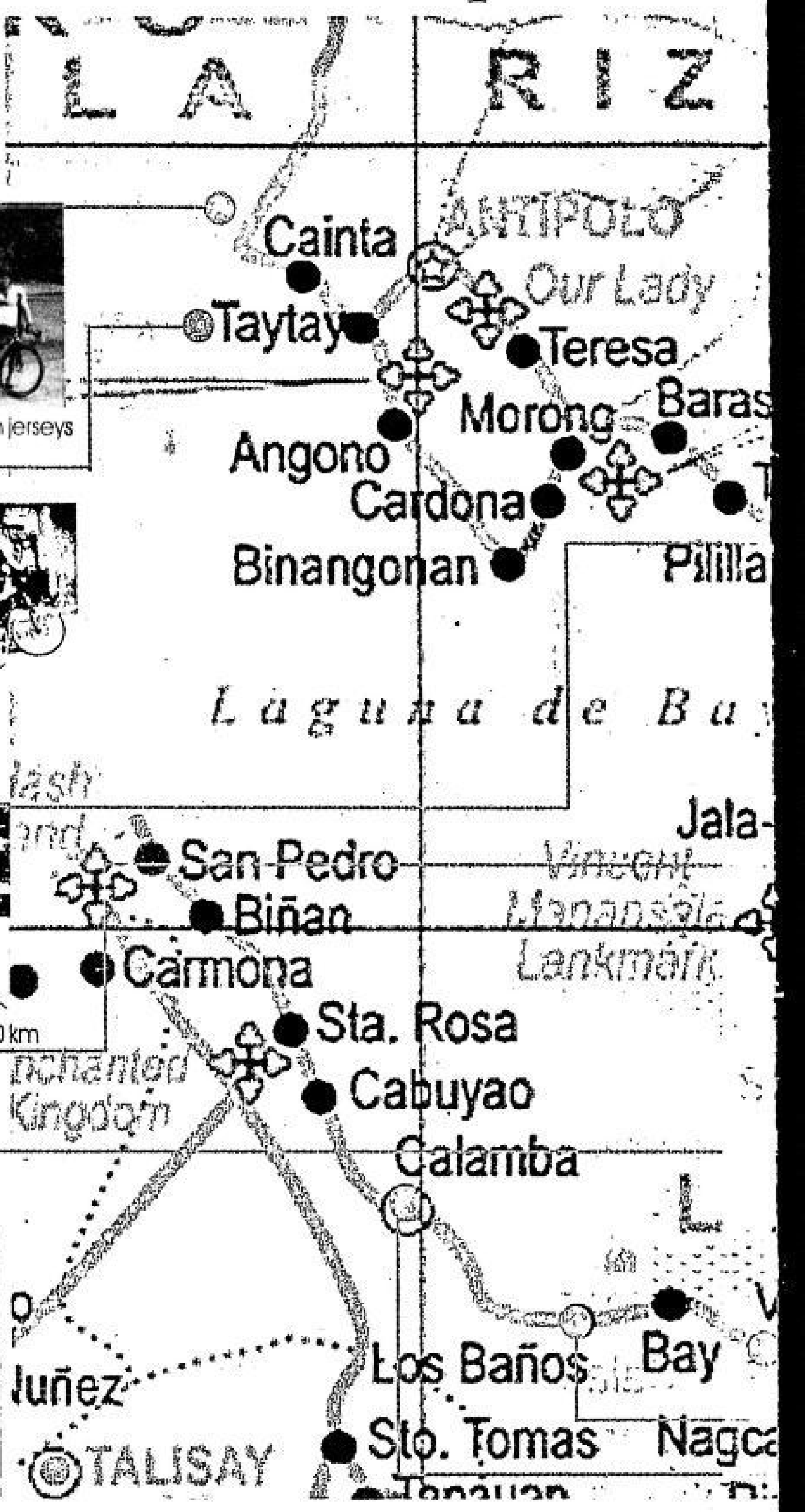
9:15 a.m. - Baras Church, 41 km

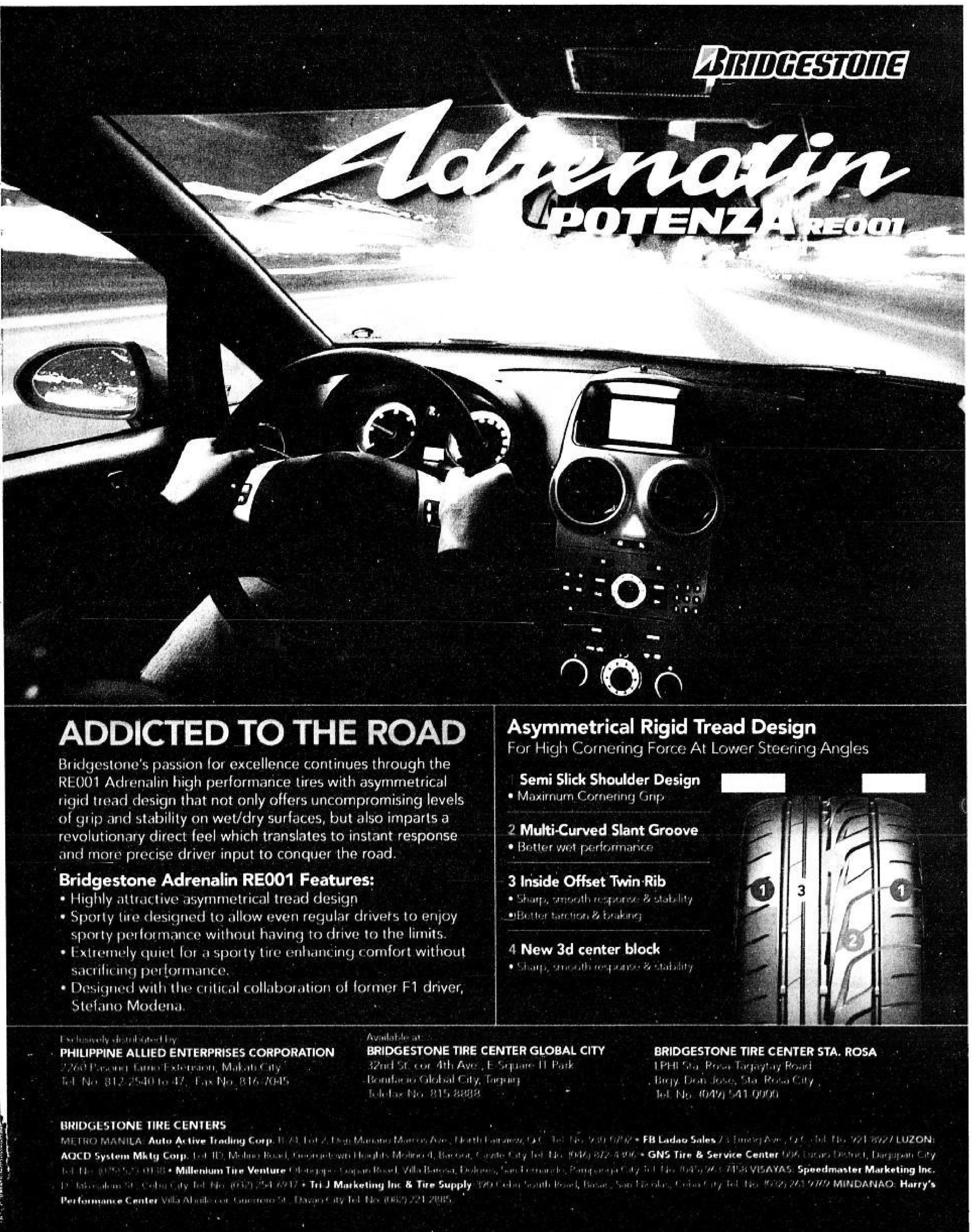
10 a.m. - Still smiling at Pillilla, 50 km

BAYAN NG JALAJALA
PARAISO NG RIZAL

10:30 a.m. Flat land all the way to Jala-Jala, 65 km

12 noon - Crossing the Laguna Boundary at km 85





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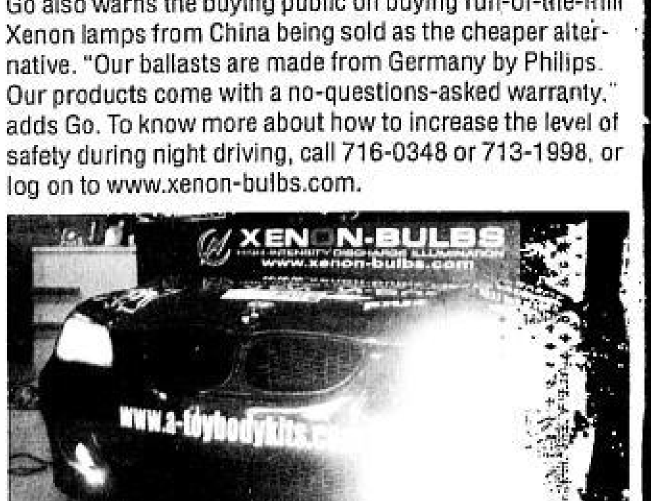
Salle
Reading
Read Road

ATI-DLSU’s Book Mobile

IN ITS GOAL TO SHARE LA SALLIAN EDUCATION WITH the young and improverished, De La Salle Lipa (DLSL) gears up for the De La Salle Book Mobile and Reading Program. Conceived in 2004 as a brainchild of DLSL president Bro. Mawel Pajarillo FSC, the De La Salle Book Mobile and Reading Program is a concrete and relevant La Sallian response to the human and spiritual distresses of poor Filipino children in public elementary schools who have little or no access to quality learning materials. Early this year, the ATI Group Inc, together with the La Salle Greenhills Batches 1976 and 1984 and the De La Salle University Mechanical Engineering Batch 1981 donated an Isuzu micro bus to the De La Salle Book Mobile and Reading Program. Dubbed as the Book Shuttle, it will transport DLSL volunteers to public schools and communities. “I decided to spearhead this educational campaign to jumpstart it the soonest time possible,” says Antonio T. Inducil, CEO of ATI Group. At turnover ceremonies of the Book Mobile are (from left): Hec Gloria, special assistant to the president; Martin Diaz de Rivera of ATI Group; Bro. Manuel “Mawel” Pajarillo, president of DLSL and Corazon Abansi PhD, vice chancellor for academics and research. Those who wish to donate to the Bookmobile and Reading Program can log on to www.dlsl.edu.com.

Bright eyes at night

IF THE BEAM OF LIGHT COMING FROM YOUR STOCK headlights doesn’t help you see much, then Xenon Bulbs High Intensity Discharge (HID) lights might just be the safety equipment that you require. Exclusively distributed by Hummer Philippines Inc, Xenon-Bulbs run on the electric power of the battery. HID lamps provide more light than that produced by halogen lamps, but use only two-thirds the power. And because there is no filament to burn out, these bulbs are claimed to last for as much as 161,000 km of driving time. “This performance results in more light on the road surface and more of the roadway being illuminated,” said Xenon Bulbs Philippines general manager Benedict Go. Xenon gas-ignited bulbs consume just 35 watts, which makes the headlights cooler to touch. Go also warns the buying public on buying run-of-the-mill Xenon lamps from China being sold as the cheaper alternative. “Our ballasts are made from Germany by Philips. Our products come with a no-questions-asked warranty,” adds Go. To know more about how to increase the level of safety during night driving, call 716-0348 or 713-1998, or log on to www.xenon-bulbs.com.



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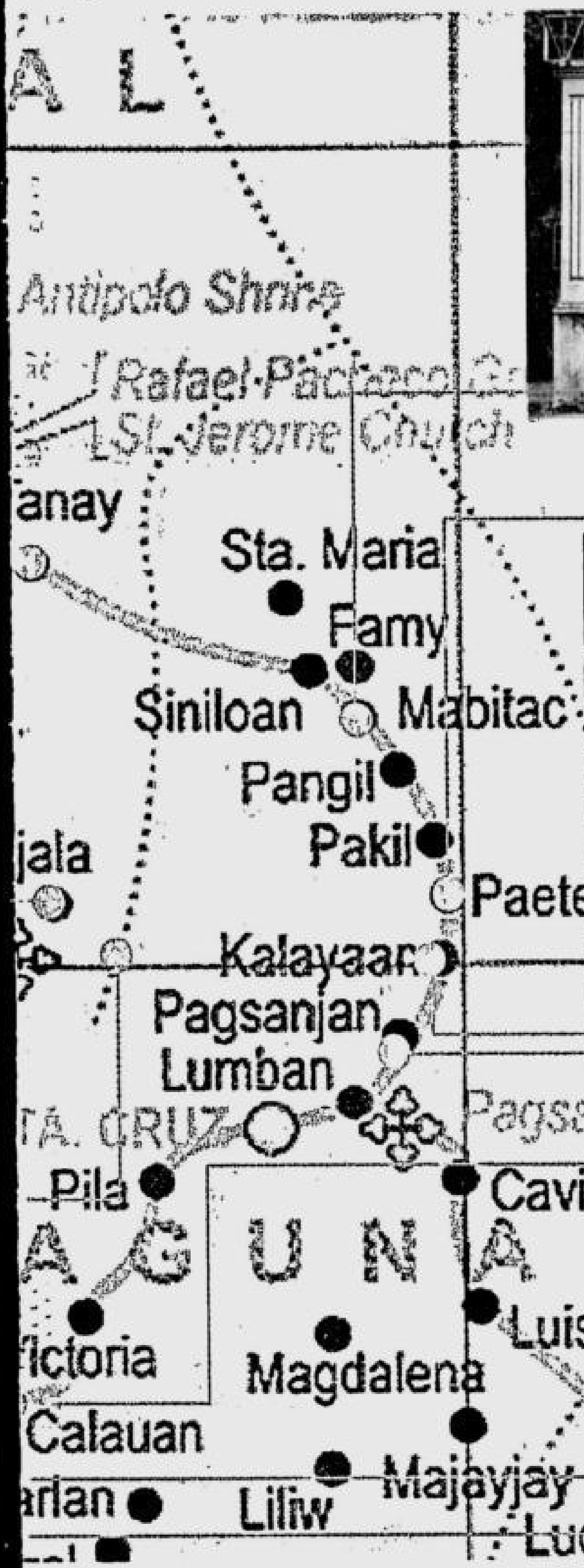


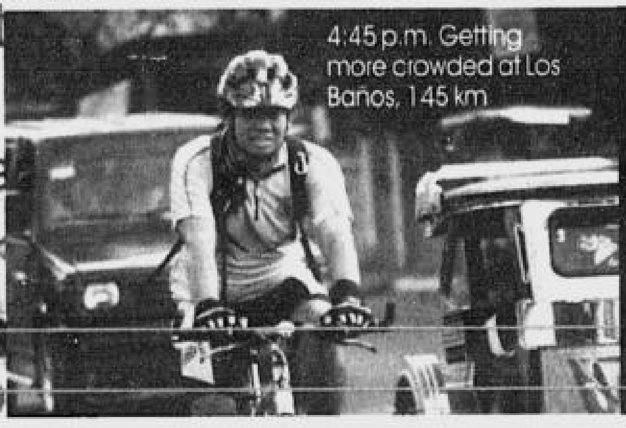
12:30 p.m. - Mabitac at km 90

1:15 p.m. The smile is turning bitter at Paete, 104 km

Lunch at 2:30 p.m. in Exotik Restaurant. Thankfully, the python there was just for display

3:20 p.m. Raining in Pagsanjan at 115 km

4 p.m. - Calauan at 134 km



4:45 p.m. Getting more crowded at Los Baños, 145 km

5:30 p.m. - Pack up! Bikes are loaded on sturdy Thule roof racks at Calamba, journey's end at 160 km

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KILL Switch

By Raymond Tribdino

Underbone undertones

FOR THE LONGEST TIME I have restrained myself on commenting about what one reader called the "black sheep" of the motorcycling community. I have always held the position that all things taken equal, all motorcyclists are decent, law-abiding citizens, happily and responsibly sharing the roads with the same respect and courtesy as other roads users.

Oh how blind was I! (At the very least, now I realize, I always had one eye closed.) Last Saturday on my way back to Laguna from a rather hectic day in Manila, two helmet-less underbone-riding lads sideswiped my car, breaking the side mirror and forcing me off my lane as I tried to avoid them. I almost front ended an oncoming tricycle as I tried to keep my lumbering diesel SUV in line.

Since the traffic in the almost-urbanized Calamba is worse than a blood clot after downing a plate of sizzling sisig, the two riders escaped without me having the benefit of even a chase. It was a wake up call. After years and years of letting their little venial sins pass, I am now confounded with an unforgivable mortal sin of riding. And the sinners never even considered a confession.

The sad part of this whole episode is that here I am writing against the motorcycling community I consciously chose to defend, because I have become a victim of its inequity. But justice needs to be done

I am not going to stereotype the normal underbone rider as unruly and brash, discourteous and uncouth. What I want to say is that because of their sheer numbers, the underbone rider has become a target for motorists, car drivers and motorcyclists alike.

It is a disturbing fact of Philippine motoring now. Based on total industry volume underbones outnumber cars 6:1. And in any given time, on any given stretch of road, any of these one-cylinder contraptions will most likely do any of the following: counterflow, pass in the blind side, cutting bigger cars and trucks and sneaking into every available space of asphalt or concrete available.

The result: utter underbone mayhem.

Ninety percent of the time you will see underbone riders ride without helmets. The 10 percent who do wear helmets are also the 10 percent who use side mirrors, turn their signal lights on when turning and keep in their lane despite the itch to overtake on a double yellow line.

One reader, Filemon Yumul, writes an additional dimension. He says "I have not seen drivers of motorcycles 400cc and above drive with suicidal recklessness. True-I have seen a lot of flaming burnouts done by overzealous big bike riders, but they seem to always choose a judicious time and place to do it."

He goes on to say, "the tendency of many of us four-wheelers to regard them (big bikers) with respect on the road. But the aforementioned underbone and similar bike wielding citizens however, display poor judgment every single day that I encounter them on the road. I'm not saying that every biker I see does it. But I swear that over the last four years, not a single day has passed where I find myself on the road and not seen the deplorable driving habits of riders."

I share Mr Yumul's frustration, noting that the discourteous acts and disrespectful driving habits of underbone riders "explain the persistently growing bias against two wheelers." One would think it was logical that the cost of the vehicle would have a direct correlation on how one rides.

There is a lot of logic there.

Mr Yumul says "it would seem that the more expensive your bike, the more grey matter resides under the helmet (or lack thereof). And it seems the greater the vulnerability, the less the regard of the rider for his own safety." Spot on?

It may hurt, but remember, I have absolutely no intention of lumping together everyone into one basket of rotten eggs. But the motorcycling community must bring to the attention of our erring brothers that it just needs a lot of common sense and respect for other road users to get credibility and integrity back to our side. The side of motorcyclists.

Let me end this column by again quoting Mr Yumul, "I guess the conclusion that this long-winded expulsion of frustration is getting to is that the majority of the motorcycle riders in this country are reaping what they are sowing."

"There can be no counter to the argument that the continuing discrimination is a result of the fact that the majority of two wheelers in this country consciously and consistently induce mayhem and anarchy in our roads."

Send your comments to: killswitch.roadtalk@gmail.com.

Ask GIBS

Mechanic-at-large
Giby Yalung answers your most pressing automotive problems

Dear Gibs:

I would just like to ask if air filters, or a class of air filters, can affect performance in terms of fuel efficiency and power of diesel engines. Some say that there are special kinds of air filters that can even increase the performance of diesel engines, such as the K & N brand. Is it true?

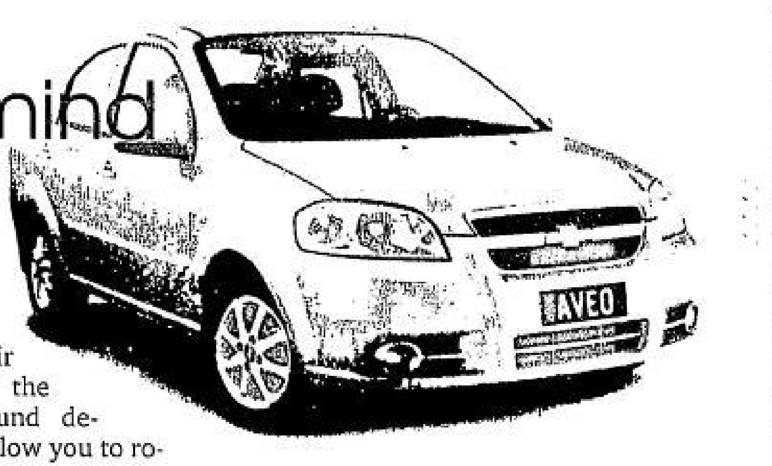
Roldan P.

Dear Roldan:

Air filter brands such as K&N, Shimota, Ramflow, and HKS are all free flow and are of good quality. They do work a solid 3 to 5-percent increase in power and fuel economy. However, they are quite loud. Thanks for writing!

For your questions or comments, e-mail askgibs.roadtalk@gmail.com.

The Chevrolet Aveo Sedan, with the adventurous and sophisticated in mind



THE CHEVROLET AVEO SEDAN promises to captivate the young and sophisticated motorist with its fresh, colorful spirit and modern design. The Aveo Sedan's concept includes the most spacious interior in its class, delivered in luxury and comfort, and world-class production standards that guarantee its quality.

The Aveo Sedan is Chevrolet's response to discriminating customers who dare to stand out. The 1.4L Aveo's long list of equipment and features, which includes the high-performance Euro suspension tuning system, ensures that it will deliver the best value with the most competitive pricing in its class. In addition to its superior design, every component used in the Aveo Sedan's production process is guaranteed to be of international standard quality marked with Chevrolet's brand heritage. It's a car that truly makes a statement.

The Chevrolet Aveo Sedan features a body-frame that gives it a large appearance and stylishly spacious interior, at the same time providing superior comfort levels with plenty of leg and headroom that will easily accommodate up to five passengers.

The Chevrolet Aveo Sedan's front grille was designed to look bigger and wider, while the Chevrolet bowtie logo was enlarged. Frontal lamps are multi-focus reflectors, which feature the front high beam/low beam and signal lights in a single casing. The front engine hood sports likewise a stylish design to go with the rest of the car and to match the new front grille and frontal lamps.

The sides of the Chevrolet Aveo Sedan feature flared wheel arches, allowing it to achieve a more aggressive sporty look. Side view mirrors come in two-tone colors and are larger than before, which gives better visibility and clearer view of traffic. The rear stands out with a triangular shaped tail lamp casing, which hides two round lamps and a rear fog light. The 3rd brake light is embedded on the rear window area, which achieves a neat and tidy appearance and avoids the usual protrusion problems of other antennae.

Large air vents come in the innovative round designs, which allow you to rotate them 360 degrees for better air flow adjustability and optimal dispersion of cool air inside the vehicle.

Front seats can be adjusted forwards and backwards and are also height adjustable. Compartments are designed into the sides of the seats for extra functionality and practicality.

The Aveo Sedan comes with top-of-the-line safety features such as dual airbags, ABS, 3rd brake lamp and front and rear fog lamps.

The Chevrolet Aveo is available in two variants, a 5-speed manual transmission (P650,000) and a 4-speed automatic (P690,000).

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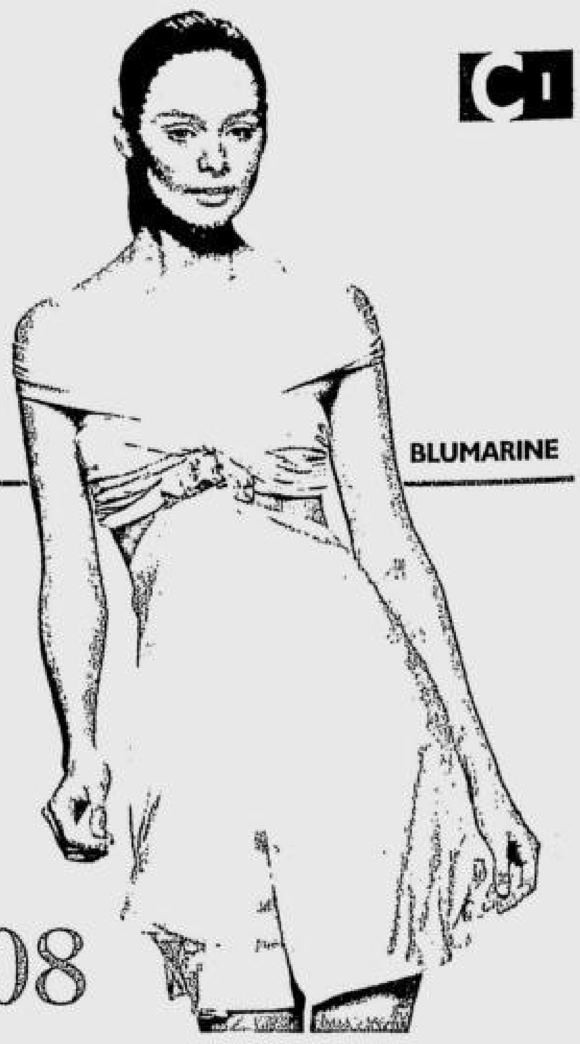
BLUMARINE

LA PERLA

MILAN FASHION WEEK

Light and airy for Spring/Summer '08

PRADA

MILAN—After one of northern Europe's wettest summers on record, fashion designers showing in Milan this week are confidently predicting more seasonal sunshine next year for their airy, light-as-a-feather creations.

Certainly Miuccia Prada did not have downpours in mind when she sent out her models like a flock of fragile butterflies, all a-flutter in outfits fit for Tinkerbell.

Each body-hugging frock had a second sheer silk layer superimposed, giving an iridescent halo effect in pale pinks, watery greens or aubergine, printed with delicate Asian-inspired motifs.

Voluminous skirts and dresses in green and white silk or gilt leather were a modern take on aristocratic costume before the French Revolution.

At Bottega Veneta, the silhouette was fluid in the house's hallmark dusty pastels, with dresses cinched in the waist and brushing the calf, discretely luxurious with hand-finished details.

The lingerie-led brand La Perla, as ever, remained undecided whether to show outerwear or underwear, and often opted for a mixture of the two, like a bra worn on top of a dress like a breastplate at the front, but plunging into the material at the back, or another bra half-exposed under a blouse with a single sleeve.

At Blumarine the collection was short and very sexy, Saint Tropez chic. Anna Molinari teamed baby-doll dresses in girly turquoise, primrose and pale pink with bikers' leather jackets in bright colors.

Hot pants came in sand or even bright orange knit, with little lace-edged tops or waiters' waistcoats covered in mother-of-pearl, some just held together by a tiny clip between the breasts.

At Iceberg the mood was rock 'n' roll, with lashings of black leather and rhinestones mixed with gold plastic for skimpy dresses and cropped jackets with wide sleeves. *AFP*

IF YOU THINK GLUTATHIONE IS ONLY FOR SKIN WHITENING, YOU'RE IN FOR A SURPRISE!

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The popularity of glutathione has focused mainly on its skin whitening properties.

But unknown to most, glutathione brings with it a host of amazing health benefits never before found in one supplement and which are crucial to survival in today's world.

WHY IS GLUTATHIONE IMPORTANT?
Glutathione is special because it is both fat soluble and water soluble. Being so, it is active throughout the body. As an anti-oxidant, and the 'master anti-oxidant' at that, glutathione neutralizes free radicals thereby protecting healthy cells from damage. Glutathione also acts as a chelator – it binds to and escorts out of the body heavy metals and other contaminants that cause the free radical damage. Glutathione is an important part of the liver's detoxification system because it helps to remove metabolic waste. It also plays a major role in transporting amino acids into cells.

SUPPLEMENTATION IS A NECESSITY
Research has found that glutathione prevents oxidative stress in most cells, and protects the DNA and RNA. As we age, glutathione levels drop. Low levels mean less protection from diseases like cancer, multiple sclerosis, and Parkinson's disease which flourish when the body has insufficient anti-oxidant protection. In view of these dangers, supplementation of glutathione is important.

GLUTATHIONE SUPPLEMENTS ARE NOT CREATED EQUAL
With the proliferation of glutathione supplements, stories of users who have been victimized by substandard products have also increased. They remind us to be careful in choosing the brand of glutathione to use. In this regard, it is important to know that not all glutathione supplements are the same.

REDUCED IS SUPERIOR TO *UN*-REDUCED
Unknown to many, glutathione is available in two forms: reduced or unreduced. Most brands, like the cheap ones flooding the market, are in the unreduced form. MET TATHIONE, on the other hand, is 100% premium-grade reduced glutathione imported from Japan. All the raw materials that go into the manufacture of MET TATHIONE are also made in Japan, the most trusted source of supplemental glutathione in the world today. Reduced glutathione doesn't mean less or inferior. It is, in fact, the scientific term used by knowledgeable dermatologists and medical practitioners to describe the highest grade and safest form of glutathione available in the market. As proof, the Woodlands Healing Research Center in Philadelphia, USA, declared that *"glutathione must be in the reduced form to work properly. The unreduced form is much cheaper and isn't metabolically active."* (Source: www.woodmed.com)

IT'S NOT THE DOSAGE BUT THE QUALITY THAT COUNTS
When it comes to quality, potency, and safety, studies conclude that reduced glutathione is superior to unreduced glutathione. And even if the dosage of unreduced glutathione is increased to 500mg per capsule, it will not compensate for its inherent weakness, or solve the fact that it doesn't work properly and is not easily metabolized by the body. On the other hand, each capsule of MET TATHIONE is a concentrated, thus, more potent dose containing 250mg of premium-grade reduced glutathione, 25mg of alpha lipoic acid (a natural moisturizer), and 125mg of sodium ascorbate (natural vitamin C). Together, they help cleanse the body, strengthen the immune system, delay ageing, boost sexual potency, prevent skin allergies and stress-related diseases... plus, decrease the production of melanin to whiten skin.

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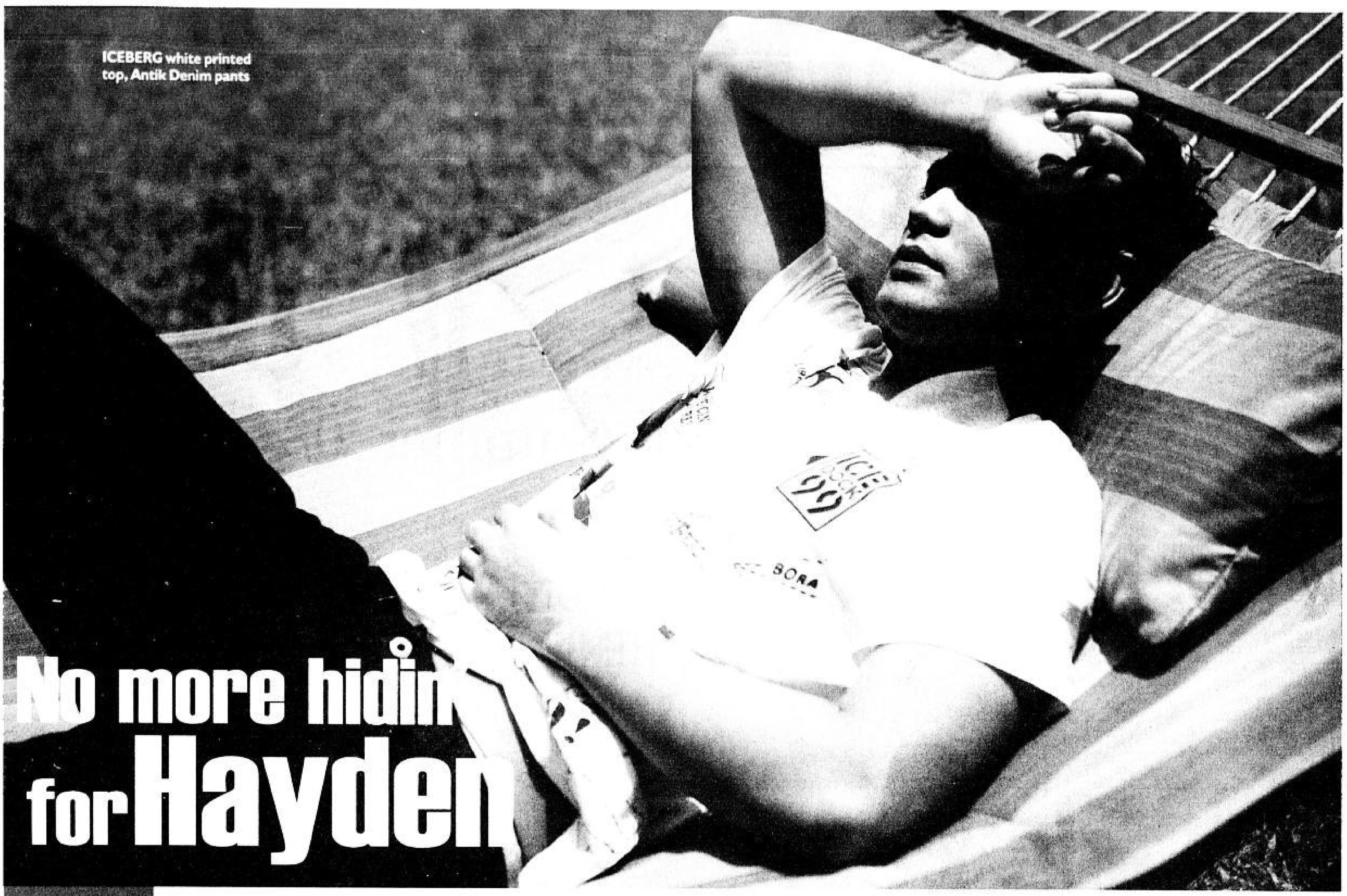


ICEBERG white printed top, Antik Denim pants

No more hidin for Hayden

Can show-biz offers be far behind for this gorgeous doctor-model?

JACKET, knit top and scarf from Hugo Boss; Antik Denim jeans; Yohji Yamamoto sneakers

Text by Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Sara Black

DR. HAYDEN KHO Jr. is a walking enigma. He can be carefree one moment, preening for the cameras in his latest Hugo Boss and Moschino outfits, and serious the next, discussing his concept of an unseen God and His infinite universe.

He's also an avid reader who never lets go of self-help and philosophical books without going through them "from cover to cover." No matter how busy his schedule is, says Kho, he makes it a point to read for at least half an hour every night before going to bed.

In spite of his numerous activities, which include singing his heart out on GMA 7's "Celebrity Duets" every Saturday evening, he still manages to find time to read three books a month.

"When I read a book, even fiction, it's important for me to learn something from it and teach it to somebody else," says Kho, during a lull in his crazy schedule—now including weekly voice lessons with Abeg and Ding Pionso. "Otherwise, I can't fully claim that I've read the book."

He's currently savoring a copy of "The Power of Kabbalah" by Yehuda Berg and has recently reread "Mere Christianity" by CS Lewis as a foil to Richard Dawkins' atheist arguments in "The God Delusion."

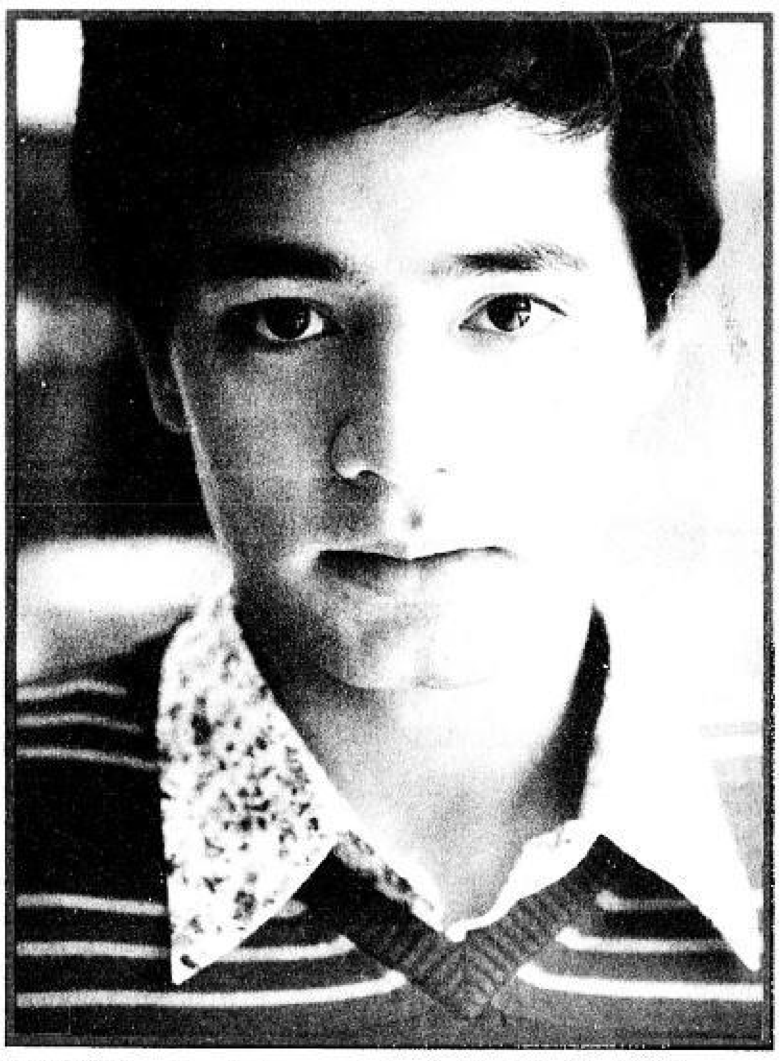
"After reading Dawkins, it's easy to fall into the belief that there's no God," says Kho. "To balance everything, I went back to 'Mere Christianity.' I then came up with my own conclusions after going through both books."

So what did he arrive at? There's definitely a God, but the 6'3" looker says he has a "different" idea of the Supreme Being and the role ordinary mortals like him play in the grand scheme of things.

Driven, serious

Indeed, beneath this model's façade (he joined "Bodyshots" in 2000 and dabbled in ramp modeling while taking up medicine at the University of Santo Tomas) is a serious and driven man who claims to know what he wants.

"I love kids, but I hate pediatrics," he says, before breaking into a boyish grin. "I want to specialize in anti-aging medicine because I find it interesting. Of course, that's also where the money is."



ICEBERG floral short-sleeve polo, Sergio Tacchini stripe knit top

Don't get him wrong, though, as Kho is the first to point out that his career choice is based on "love." He wants to make a pile as soon as possible in order to give something back to his parents.

Kho, who took after his father's long and lean physique, credits his dad, also a doctor, for influencing him to pursue medicine. Kho Sr., an ethnic Chinese, practices family and industrial medicine in Manila.

Kho's free spirit of a mother, who's into landscaping, fashion and interior design, on the other hand, is responsible for helping him keep in touch with "my feminine side." The Filipino-Spanish beauty is also to "blame" for her son's striking Eurasian features.

"I want them to enjoy life while they're still strong," says Kho, the fourth of five kids. "I can't imagine myself being supported by my parents all my life. I also want to be independent."

This realization has led him to drop his dream of specializing in plastic surgery. Doing so would mean training for another eight to 10 years. After nearly a decade preparing for a career in medicine, this guy has had enough of "unemployable enlightenment."

"I'm raring to put my education to good use," he declares. "It's time to work."

Photography by Sara Black
Styled by [illegible]
Makeup by Claire [illegible]
for Shu Uemura
Hairstyling by Ricky Diokno/
Kiehl's Stylist Series

Old soul

Not only is he practical, he also seems wise beyond his years when it comes to matters of the heart. Not a few people raised their eyebrows in disbelief when Kho and Dr. Vicki Belo decided to go public with their relationship.

The two have, in fact, been dating for two years now, soon after Kho joined the Belo Medical Group at the Medical Plaza in Makati as one of its residents.

"I've always felt that I'm an old soul," he explains. "Even when I was much younger, I've always been drawn to older women. Even my friends in school were a bit older than me. I find older people more interesting."

Surprisingly, in their May-December relationship, it's Belo who's often the subject of nasty talk.

"I have no problems dealing with all the criticisms," he says. "They can call me a user for all they want, but please spare her. It's so unfair because Vicks is such a good person."

In Kho's eyes, Belo is also one of the sexiest and most beautiful women he has ever dated. She's also fashionable in a daring but classic way. In a world where talk has become cheap, he also cites her for her integrity.

"Her word means a lot," he says. "If she promises you something, she will do it without regrets. Unlike me, she believes in the goodness of people. She believes everybody changes for the good. That's why some people have taken advantage of her."

As Belo's self-appointed "knight in shining armor," Kho often feels frustrated that he can't defend his ladylove from malicious and anonymous attacks 24/7. Thus, as a rule, the couple doesn't let unsolicited comments, whether good or bad, affect them.

And now that Kho has started appearing on TV, initially as a reluctant singer out to serenade the two most important women in his life—his mother and his girlfriend—can a career in show biz be far behind?

"It depends if the offer is attractive," he says with a wink. "But I will never turn my back on medicine."

Kho is all set to fly to Europe sometime next year to embark on a series of training sessions with the best anti-aging specialists in the continent. Instead of eight years, he expects to finish the program in two.

DIESEL denim jeans, Gucci white belt

SHIRT, jeans and scarf all from Hugo Boss

Avant-garde timepieces

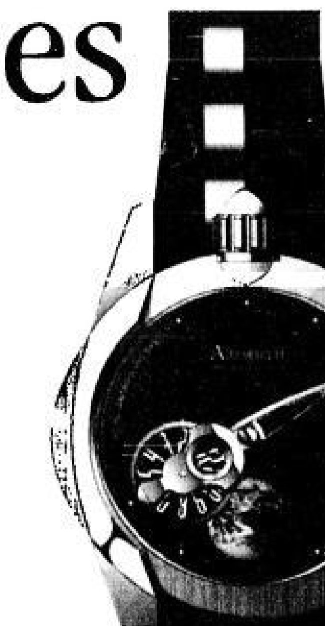
AZIMUTH IS A MATHEMATICAL TERM that refers to the arc of a horizon from a specific reference point. It is used by astrologers, navigators and military men to survey their bearings.

Azimuth is also the brand name of a line of premium avant-garde watches founded in 2003 by veterans in the watch industry. The watches are individually modified and assembled in Switzerland.

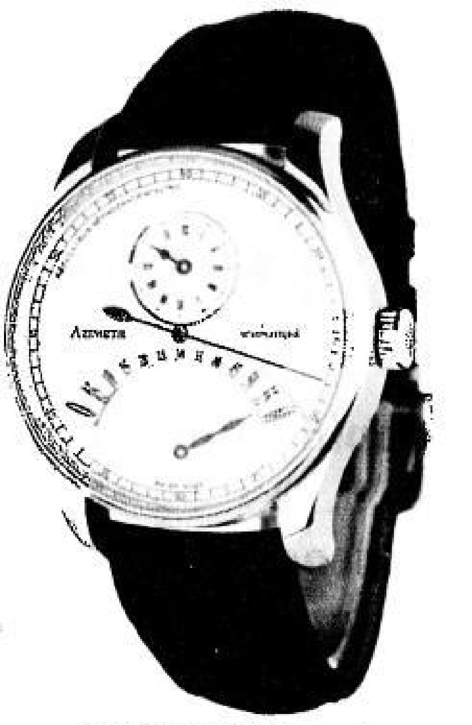
Azimuth is available in four main lines: Mecha-1 BMF, Militare-1, Round-1 and SP-1 Mechanique. These collections include a range of features such as chronographs, retrograde counters, calendar functions, power reserve, mystery complications, etc.

Mecha-1 BMF represents Azimuth's signature collection. It exudes industrial machismo with its race-car allusions and cutting-edge aesthetics. Militare-1 gets its inspiration from pilots' watches during World War II, commonly known as the B-Uhr. Another nostalgic piece from Azimuth is the Round-1 collection, with classic round-shaped cases inspired by 1940s timepieces. Nicknamed "spaceship watch," the SP-1 Mechanique line, meanwhile, features a forward-looking timepiece that gives one a feel of gazing at the universe from inside a space shuttle when telling time.

Azimuth timepieces are available at Rafael Jewellery, 2/L Edsa Shangri-La Plaza Mall (tel. 6363399).



SP-1 Mechanique



REGULATEUR Retrograde Minutes, Round-1 collection

JAGDBOMBER, Militare-1 collection

Second time around

ONE OF THE MOST PRESTIGIOUS watchmakers in the world, Omega, has opened its second free-standing boutique in the Philippines.

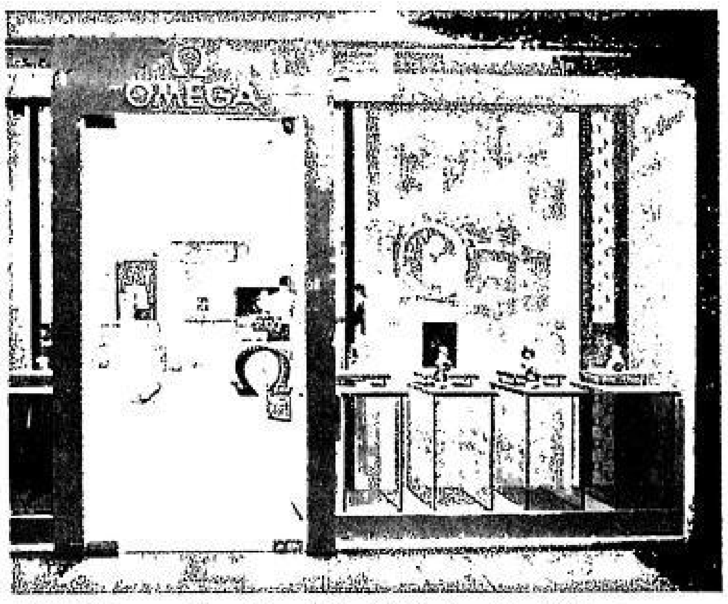
The new boutique is located at 2/L TriNoma in Quezon City. It carries the complete range of the brand's timeless collections, including Constellation, Seamaster, Speedmaster, De Ville, and Specialities lines, as well as elegant designs from the Omega fine jewelry collection.

As with the first Omega Boutique in Glorietta and every Omega outlet worldwide, these fine timepieces and jewelry are complemented by superior customer service that reflects Omega's tradition of excellence since 1848. Stationed at the boutique is a qualified watchmaker who provides technical advice and the most professional and efficient customer service.

The new boutique boasts of furniture and display systems that are specially designed and made in the Omega headquarters in Switzerland.

Renowned for its precision, Omega has been official timekeeper of the Olympic Games for more than three-quarters of a century now. The legendary Swiss brand has also been the watch chosen by NASA and its astronauts in the conquest of space since the 1960s. Omega's reputation for exquisite design, craftsmanship, and style sees it as the choice of many of the most fashionable and glamorous men and women around the world.

Omega watches are also available at the Omega boutique in Glorietta and retail watch shops like Lucerne, Chronos, and Prestige.



OMEGA'S second boutique in the Philippines is in TriNoma.

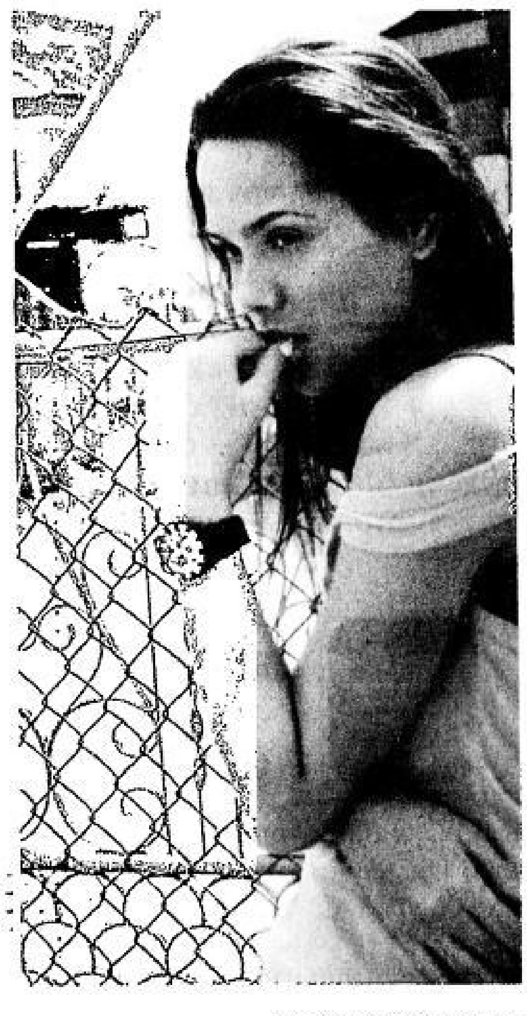
FX DATE by Buffalo. An analogue watch with date feature and brown leather strap

Watches from A to Z

IN A FLOURISHING market of watches offering various shapes, designs, and prizes, Watch Republic offers everyone the newest brands and styles of watches.

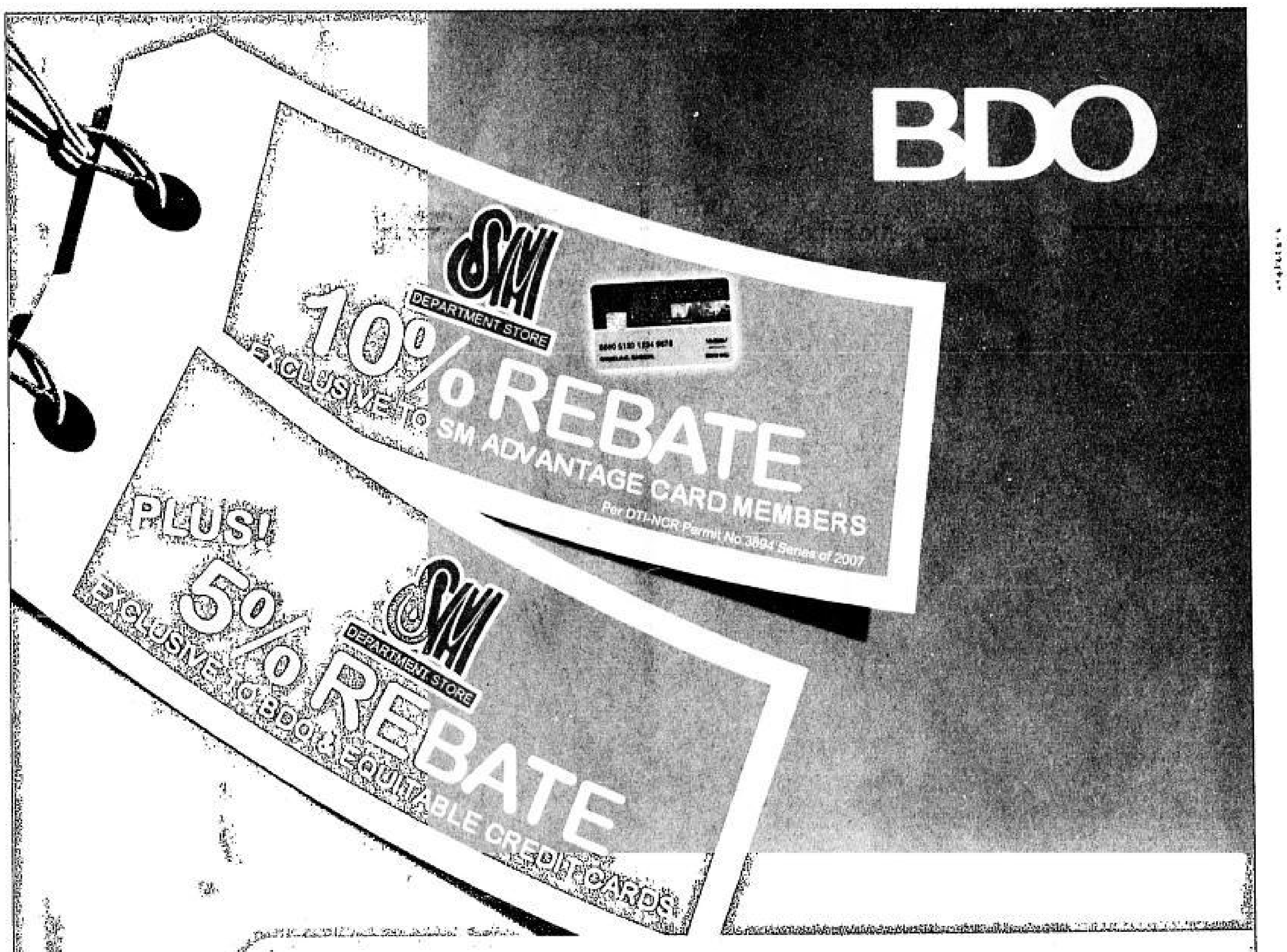
Watch Republic carries brands such as Adidas, Police, Buffalo, Timberland, and Michael Kors for both men and women.

Watch Republic has branches at Power Plant Mall Rockwell, TriNoma, Robinsons Place Ermita, The Block SM North Edsa, Mall of Asia, Market Market, SM Fairview, SM Lipa, SM Pampanga, SM Cebu, SM Bacolod and Limketkai CDO.



FLORENCE by Police. Get funky with this black ion-plated case with stones and black leather strap.

Photography Charles Lu
Watches from Watch Republic
Shot on location in Singapore aboard Star Cruise Superstar Virgo
Model Melissa Frye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Shop with your BDO and Equitable credit cards at SM Department Stores in Cubao, Manila, Bicutan, Dasmariñas and Iloilo during the 3-Day Sale on September 28 to 30 and enjoy exclusive rebates!

Enjoy up to 15% Rebate!
Get an instant 5% Rebate* for a minimum purchase of P3,000 and an additional 10% Rebate with your SM Advantage Card on the first day of the sale from 10am to 12nn!

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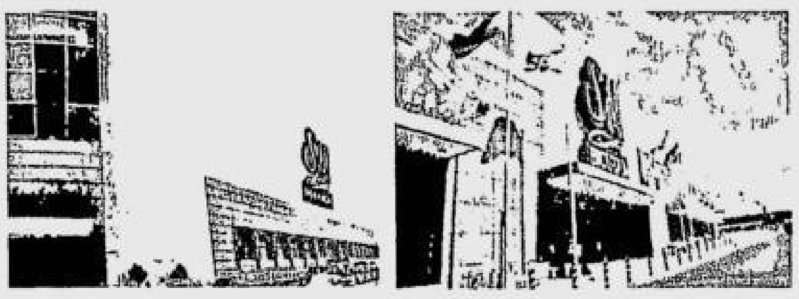
*Rebate also applies to 0% at 3-month installment purchase worth P5,000
Terms and conditions apply. See flyers for details
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 4330 Series of 2007

Shop, eat and save big at SM City Manila & Bicutan

Rediscover the pleasures of SM shopping and eating out! Go value-hunting on the weekend of September 28, 29 and 30 at SM City Manila and SM City Bicutan. For the convenience of shoppers, mall hours at SM City Bicutan have been extended from 10am to 11pm on Friday, September 28 and Saturday, September 29.



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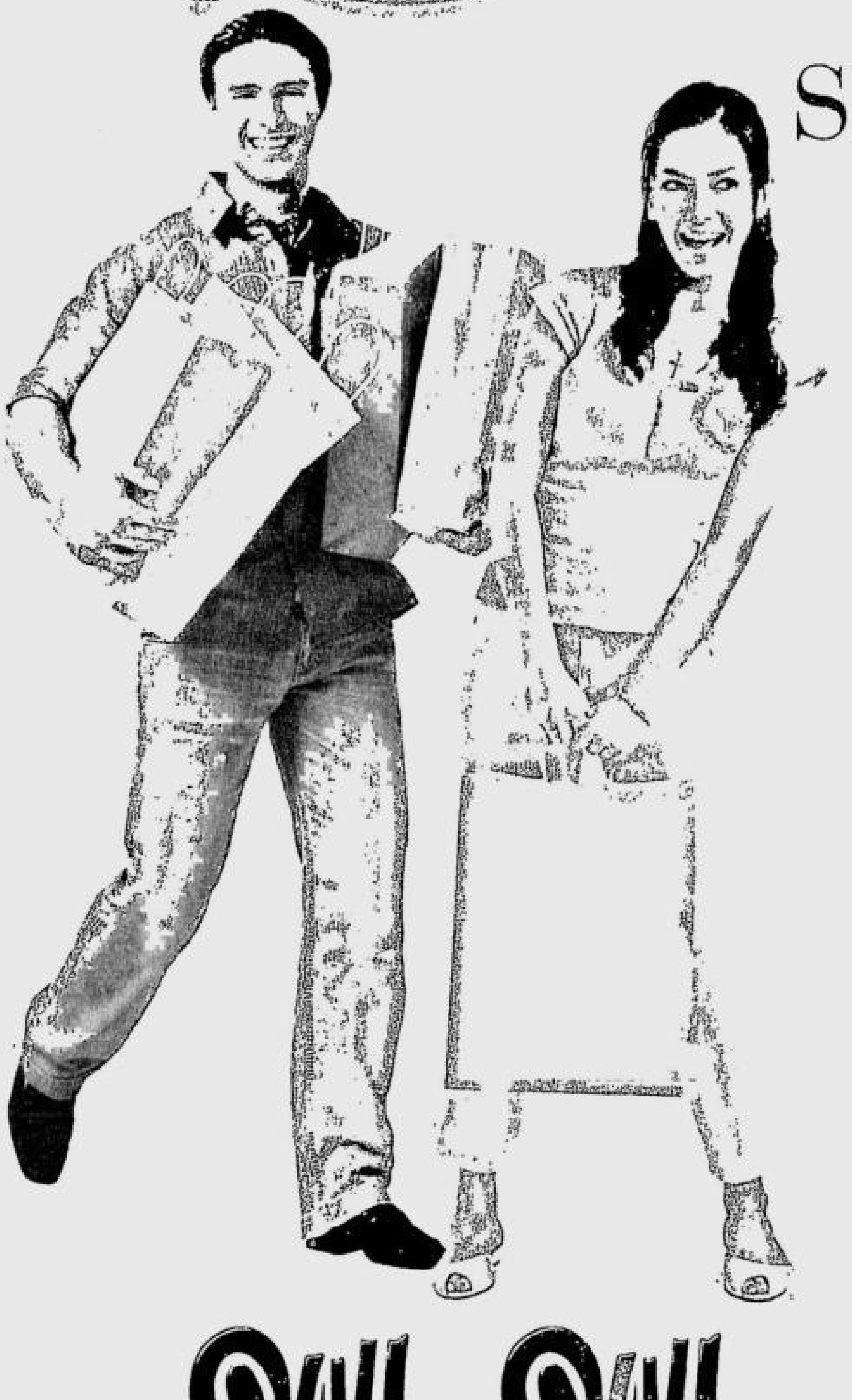

SM City MANILA

SM City BICUTAN

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 4220, Series of 2007

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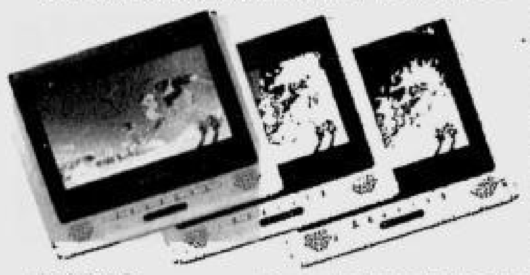

SDV97-B

See mechanics poster for details

More prizes for more winners!

A P500 single-receipt purchase from any participating store (food or non-food) qualifies shoppers to join the raffle draw on Sept. 30, 2007. At stake in the 3-DAY SALE raffle event: a total of 10 **Next Base portable DVD players** with 7-inch color monitor. (5 units for 5 winners per mall.)

Come for the great buys!

SM City BICUTAN

Cap the month of September with take-home buys on a wide assortment of merchandise tagged at up to 50% off. Participating establishments - including beauty and fitness boutiques, specialty shops, appliance and computer stores, home stores, fashion boutiques, and many more - are offering fantastic deals in addition to the price breaks.

Avail of all these at SM City Bicutan, your one-stop malling venue in Southern Metro Manila.

Catch the savings!

SM City MANILA

Bag the many attractive deals and offers during the 3-DAY SALE event at SM City Manila. And, for your Christmas shopping, you'd be pleasantly surprised to find an amazing array of gift items for your wish list!

Boost your chances to WIN!

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Meet to eat at SM FOODCOURT.

Take your pick from a wide selection of menus, served hot and tasty for you, your family and friends at really cool prices.

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You can also win iPods, tickets to a Black-Eyed Peas concert, and more in SM Foodcourt's Soup-er Prizes promo, on-going until October 7.

SM CINEMA

Relax, watch a movie. See your favorite stars in their latest flicks at SM CINEMA.

Every single purchase of four cinema tickets qualifies you to join the Next Base DVD player raffle promo.

FASHION

Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**

Contributing Editors
Jenni Epperson
and Apples Aberin-Sadhwani

Retro hits

AFTER A season of futurism, fashion houses around the globe are digging deep into historical archives and taking inspiration from eras past to create new collections meant for the modern woman.

For Fall/Winter 2007, for instance, Louis Vuitton designer Marc Jacobs chose 17th-century Dutch paintings as a springboard for his polished, grown-up yet still very hip collection. Muccia Prada presented coats with an interesting 1920s slouch while Alber Elbaz of Lanvin drew inspiration from Jeanne Lanvin's illustrations of wide-shouldered 1930s gowns.

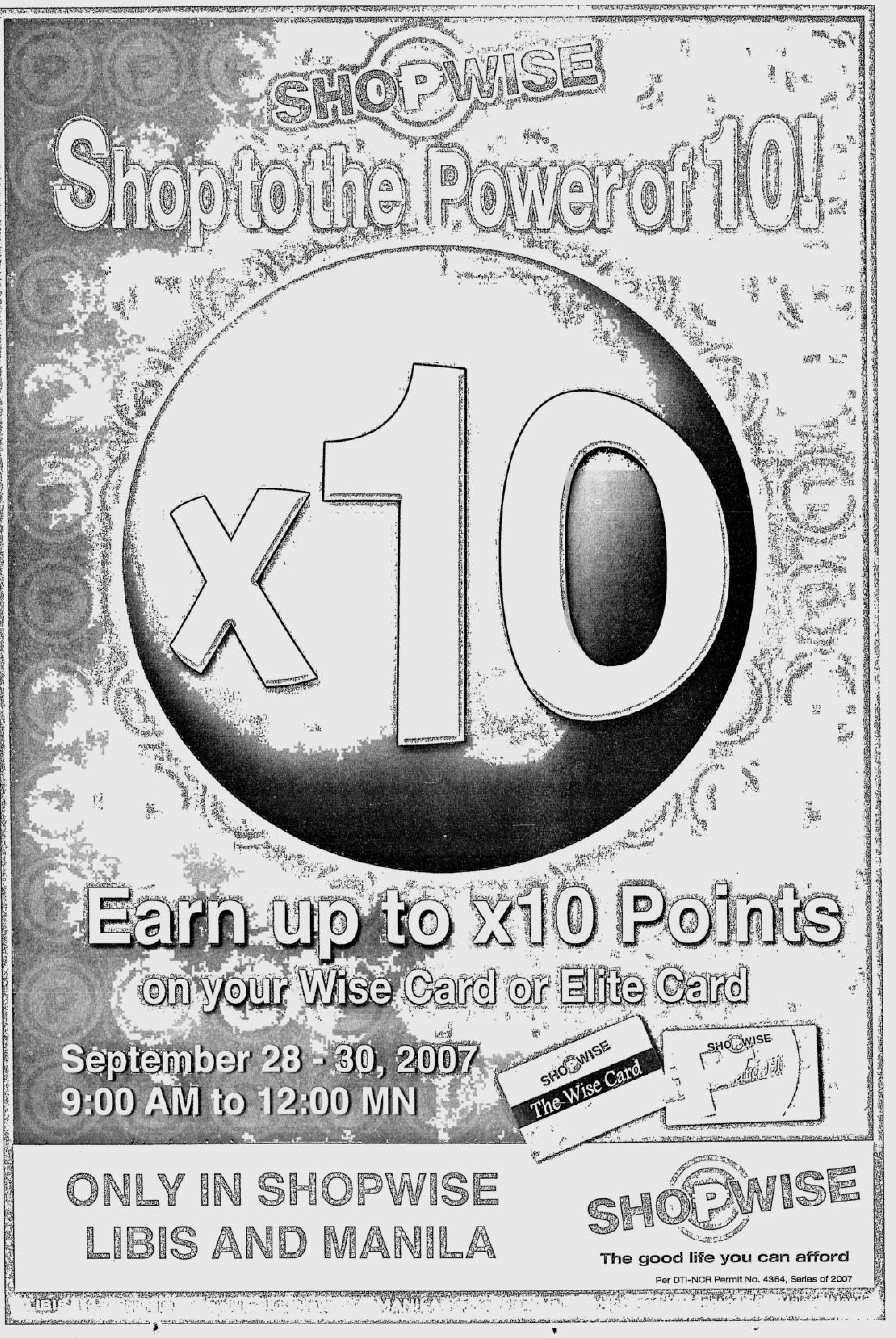
International brands Episode and Jessica, on the other hand, are channeling the 1960s by paying homage to two icons of that era: Jackie O., whose style countless women have tried to imitate since her days as JFK's first lady, and the mod squad. As such, A-line, baby-doll and swing tops, dresses and jackets with large rounded collars comprise both labels' current collections.

Neutral colors like black and cream are predominant in Episode Studio's current collection. Meanwhile, tonal hues in powder blue, steel and rosebud anchored to black define Jessica's fall offerings.

Fabrication for Episode Studio's line consists of Rayon and stretch jersey for ease and comfort, cashmere for a touch of luxe, and basket weave for novelty. Jessica's fabrication range focuses on day-to-evening combinations that include reflective fabrics like metallic devore, metallic jacquard and Lurex canvas weave.

The former's general feel leans towards timeless elegance and a traditional professional look characterized by jackets with trademark Jackie O. shawl collars and French cuffs, while Jessica's look harks back to swinging London, when flared cuffs and ruffles were aplenty.

RETRO/ D2



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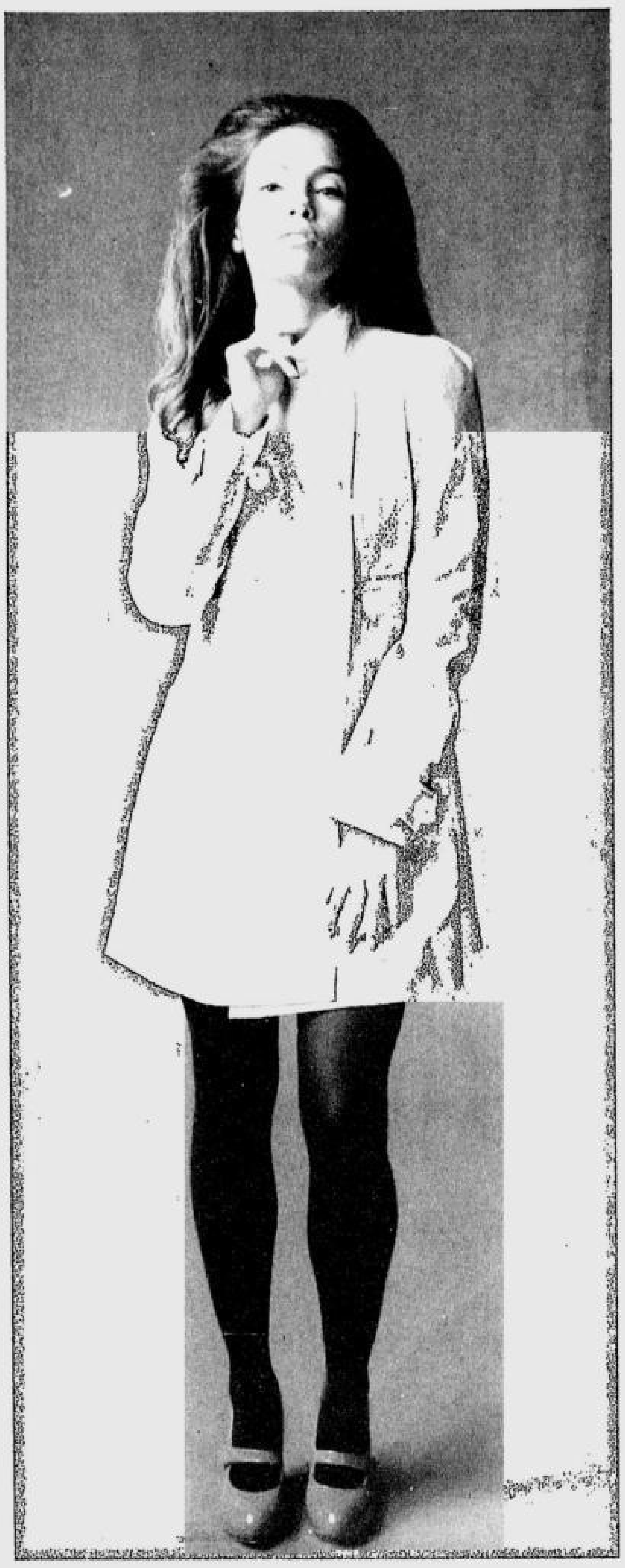
Retro hits

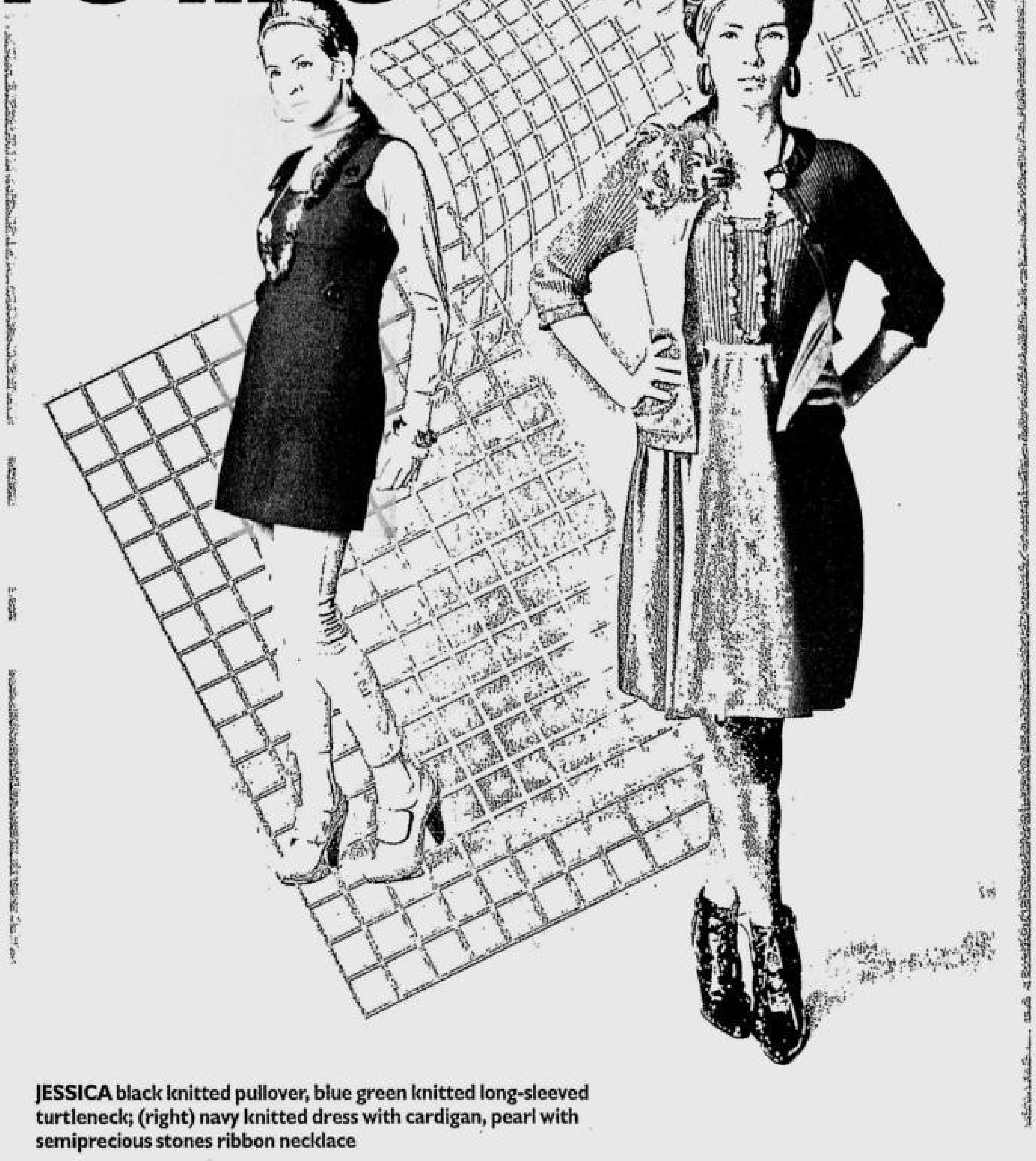
Remember that retro references in fashion will work only when they're not taken literally



JESSICA button-down cream coat with metallic gold detail

APPLES' PICKINGS

Apples Aberin-Sadhwani



JESSICA black knitted pullover, blue green knitted long-sleeved turtleneck; (right) navy knitted dress with cardigan, pearl with semiprecious stones ribbon necklace

From page D1

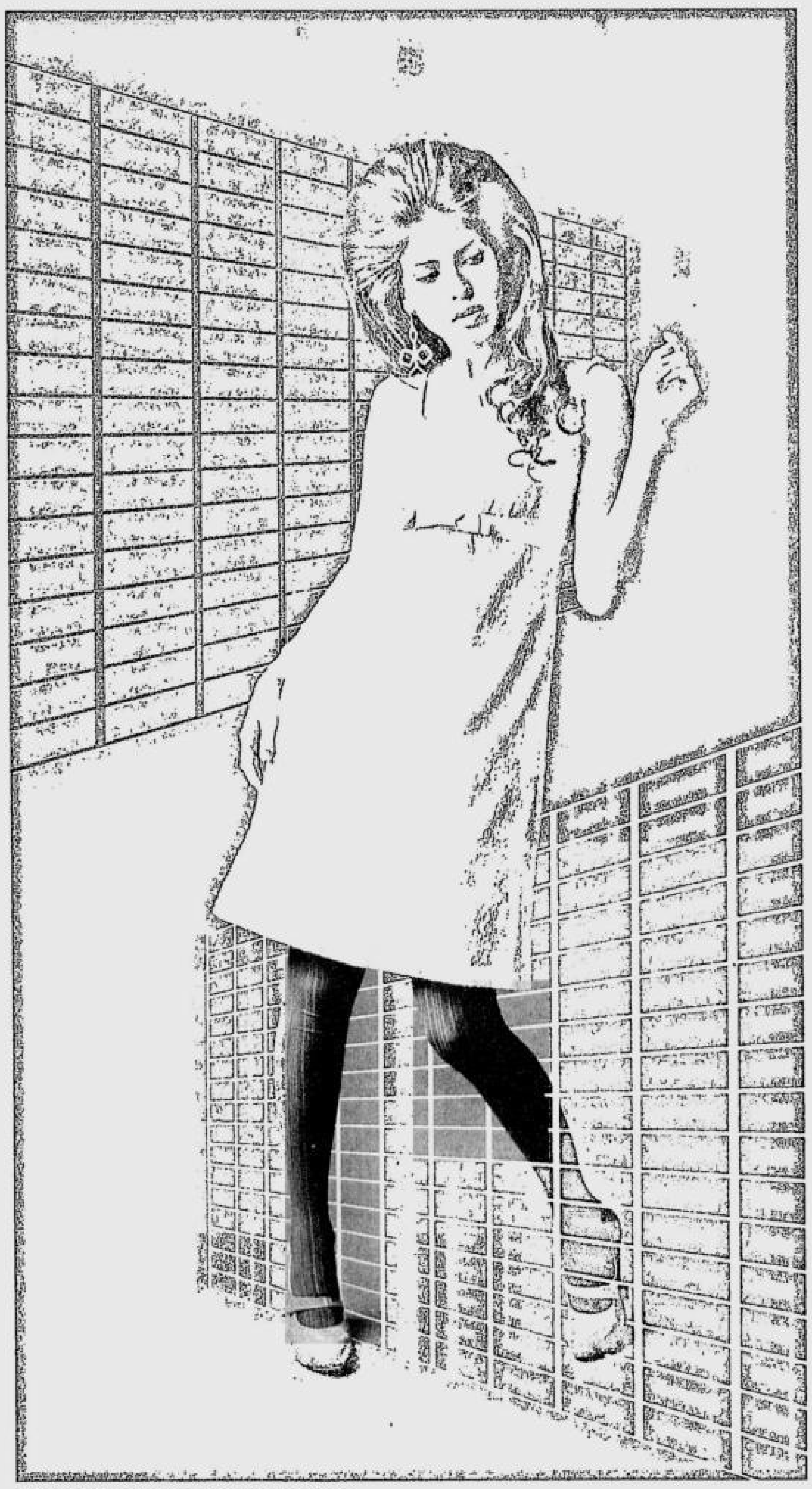
Of course, it's best to remember that retro references in fashion will work only when they're not taken literally. A good mix of retro and modern pieces (say, a swing jacket a la Jackie O. paired with edgy skinny jeans) will always lend a more interesting, fashion-forward appeal.

So, while looking to the past for inspiration, inject a little of the here and now (and of the future even!) for a look that's style-savvy, up-to-the-minute and still fashionably fun!

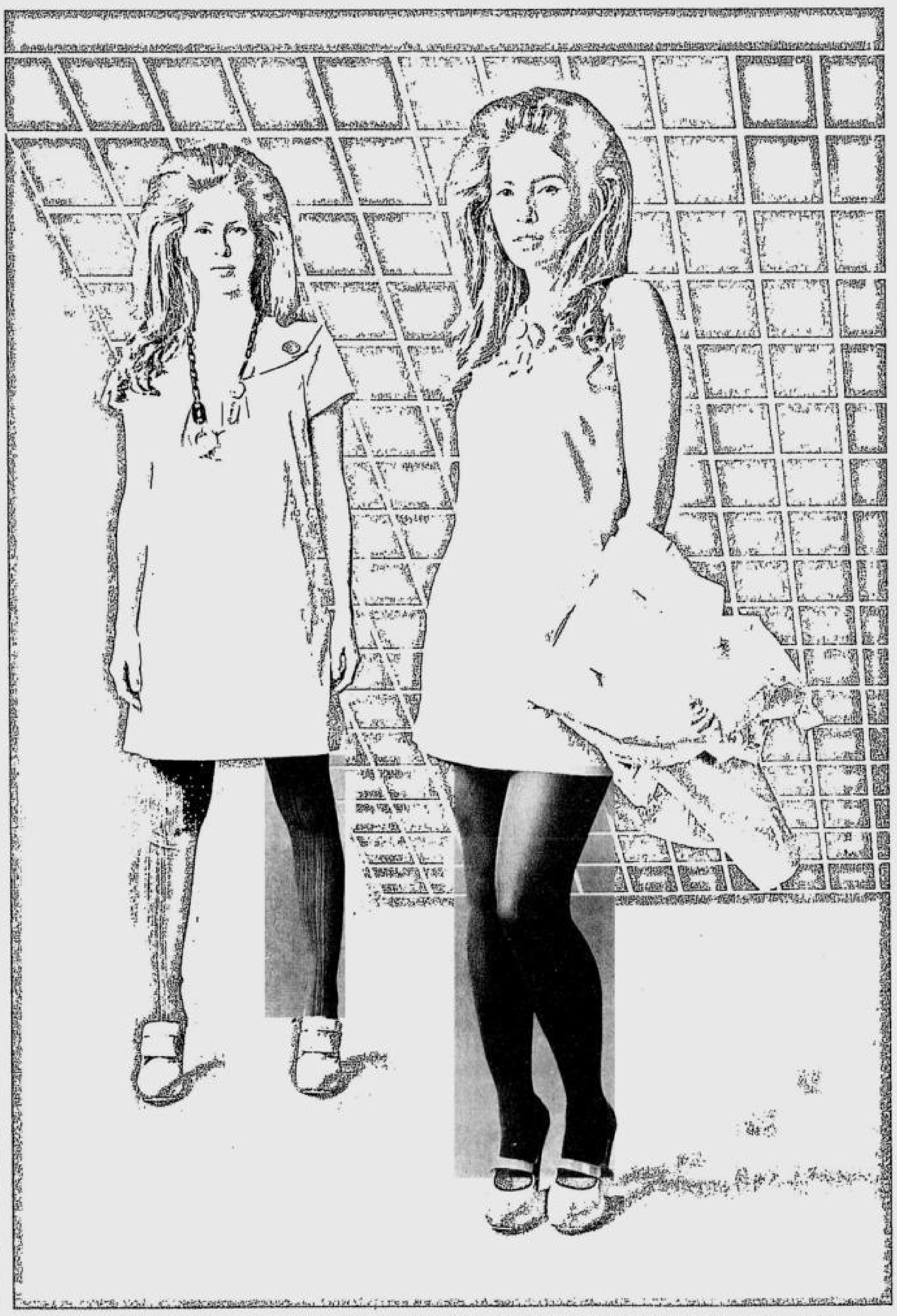
Episode (Shangri-La Plaza Mall) and Jessica (Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Podium, Rustan's Makati) are exclusively distributed by Store Specialists Inc.

E-mail the author at afashion@inquirer.com.ph

Photography Aldwin Aspillera
Styling Charmaine Palermo
Makeup and hair Robbie Pinera for Lancome and Raymond Santiago for L'Oreal Professionnel



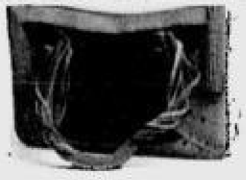
EPISODE cream knee-length lace dress



JESSICA gray A-line mini dress, gray patent ankle boots, plastic acrylic chain necklace; (right) taupe dress with embellished neckline, woven gold metal coat, patent camel mary-janes

FASHION SHOUTOUT FASHION SHOUTOUT FASHION

Benefit bazaar Oct. 19-20



TICKLED PINK, THE BENEFIT BAZAAR, will be held Oct. 19-20, 10 a.m.-10 p.m., at the Rockwell Tent, Makati. The look is New Age Zen in black and pink, the global breast cancer color, styled by Joseph Claravall. The bazaar will showcase rare items, mostly products for export ranging from women's wear and accessories, menswear, children's clothing and toys, home accessories, gifts, and a wide array of food. Specially designed items from ICanServe foundation are also available. Bianca Araneta, a supporter of the advocacy, is the event's signature model (6873942, e-mail icanserve@yahoo.com or visit www.icanserve.net).

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Operations Executive

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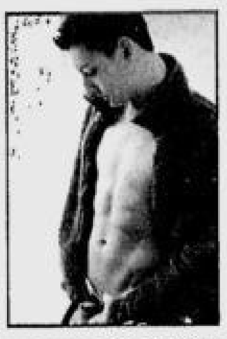

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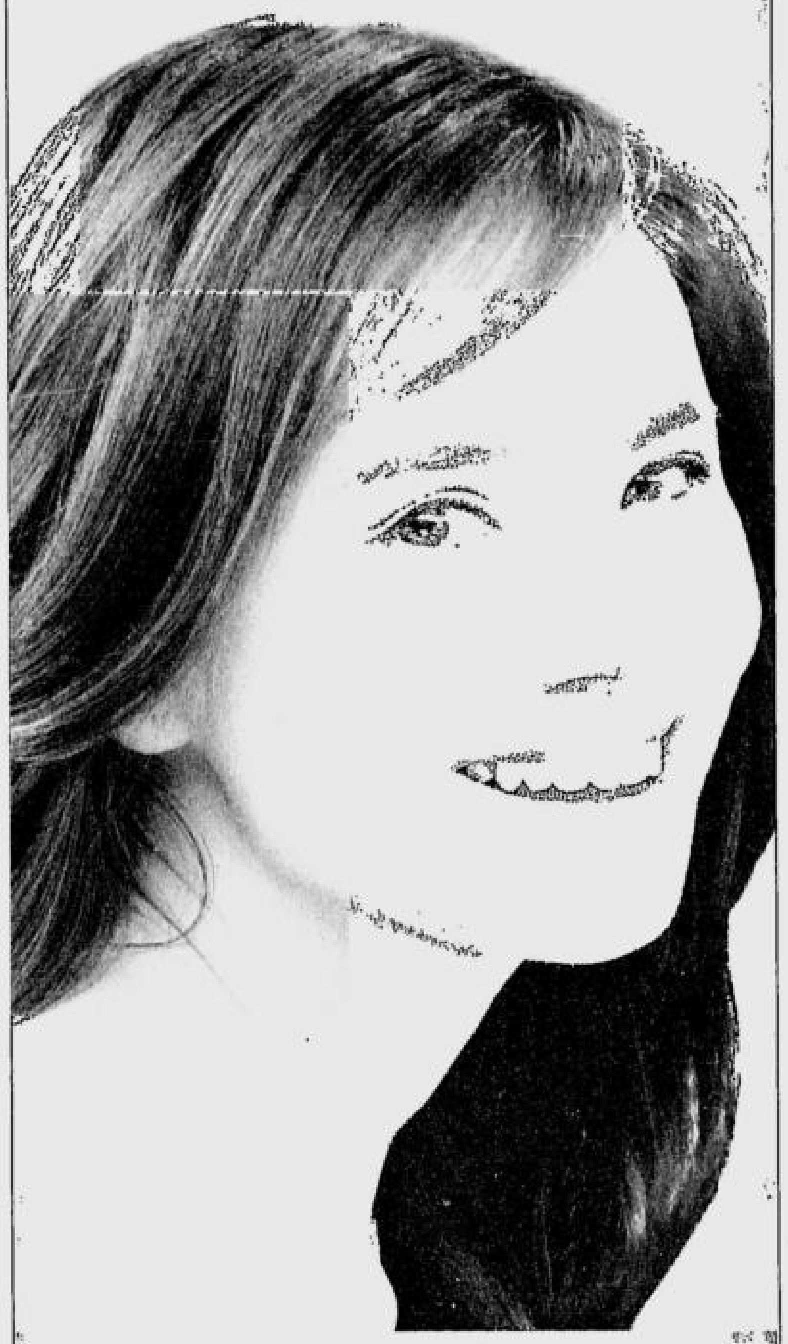

CONGRATULATIONS

to last week's winners!

Sali na! Para mukhang blooming
ka na everyday, winner ka pa!

September 15
Rizaliz C. Santiago
Gen. Trias, Cavite

September 16
Ana Belen M. Manansala
Sta. Ana, Manila

September 17
Aileen Omac
Cagayan De Oro

September 18
Dolores de Honor
Balintawak, Quezon City

September 19
Leslie G. Ocampo
Imus, Cavite

September 20
Kyla Adielle G. Ortigas
Legaspi Village, Makati City

September 21
Rachelle Colina
Gen. Trias, Cavite

Join now!

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Daily winners from September 26 to 30 will be notified and announced on Eat Bulaga from Monday to Saturday and SOP on Sunday.

You too can win P30,000 in our daily draws this September!

See posters and flyers for more details.

September mall tour schedule:

September 29-30 SM Dasmarinas & Trinoma

Per DOH-BFAD Permit No. 0850 s.2007.

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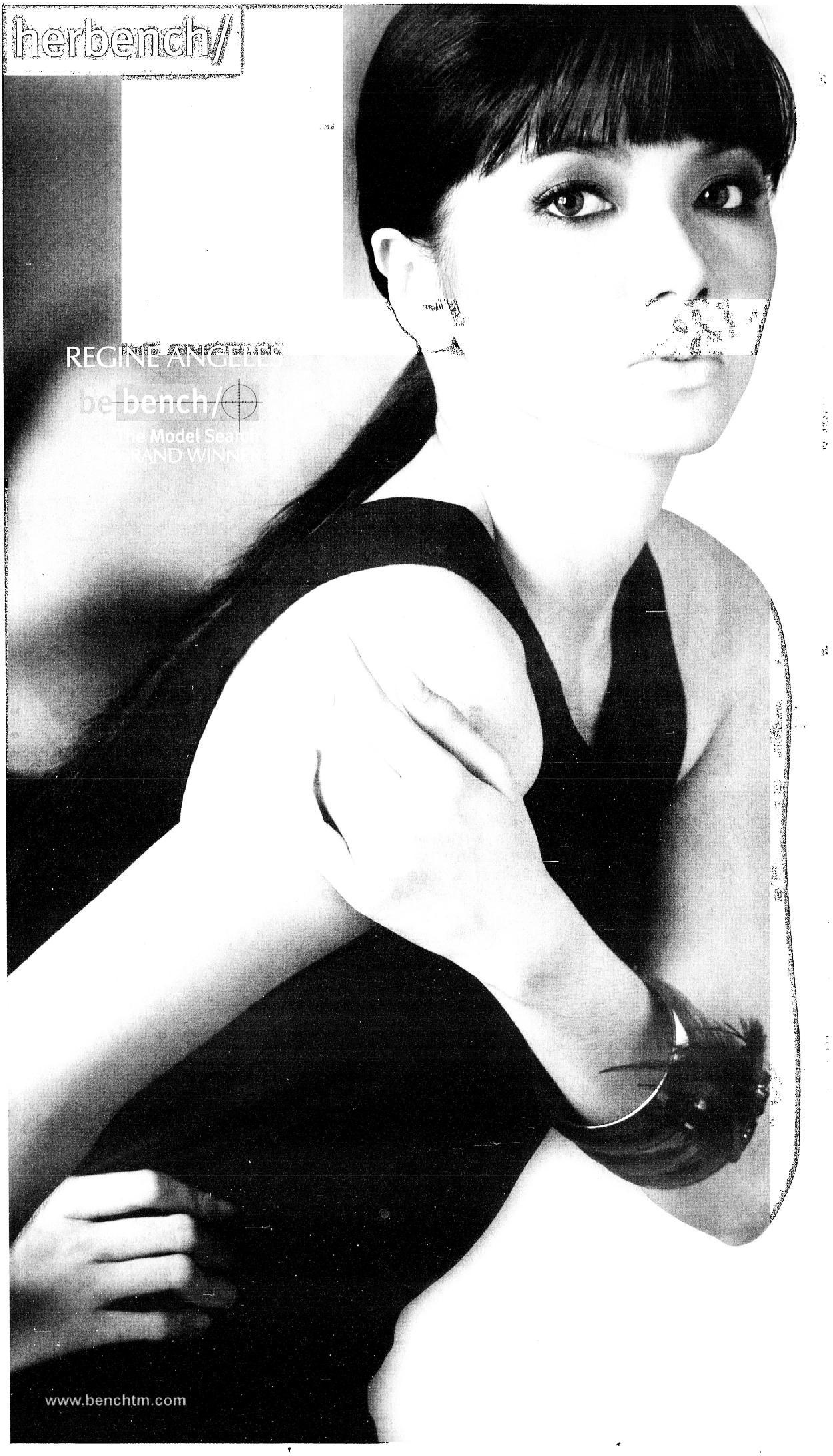
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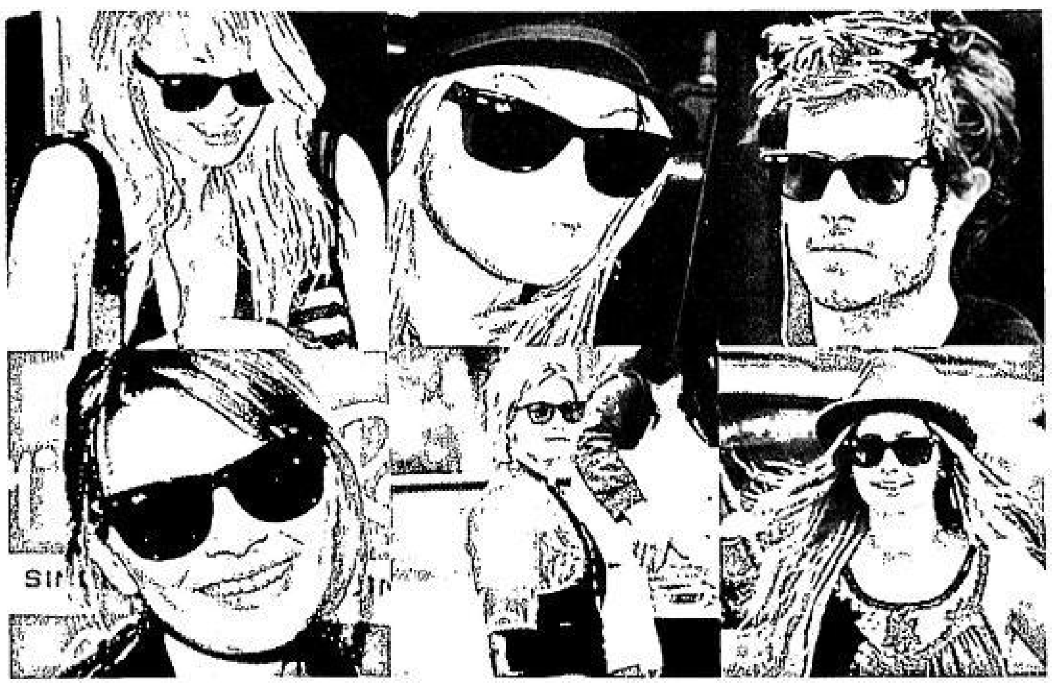
FASHION

Baby, I love your shades

Ray-Ban introduces the latest reincarnation of the classic Wayfarers, and Hollywood is snatching them up again



Black-eyed piece

From top left: Nicole Ritchie, Fergie, Adam Brody, Mischa Barton, Sienna Miller and Ashley Simpson

ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF BRANDED LIFESTYLE INC.

Mabuhay!

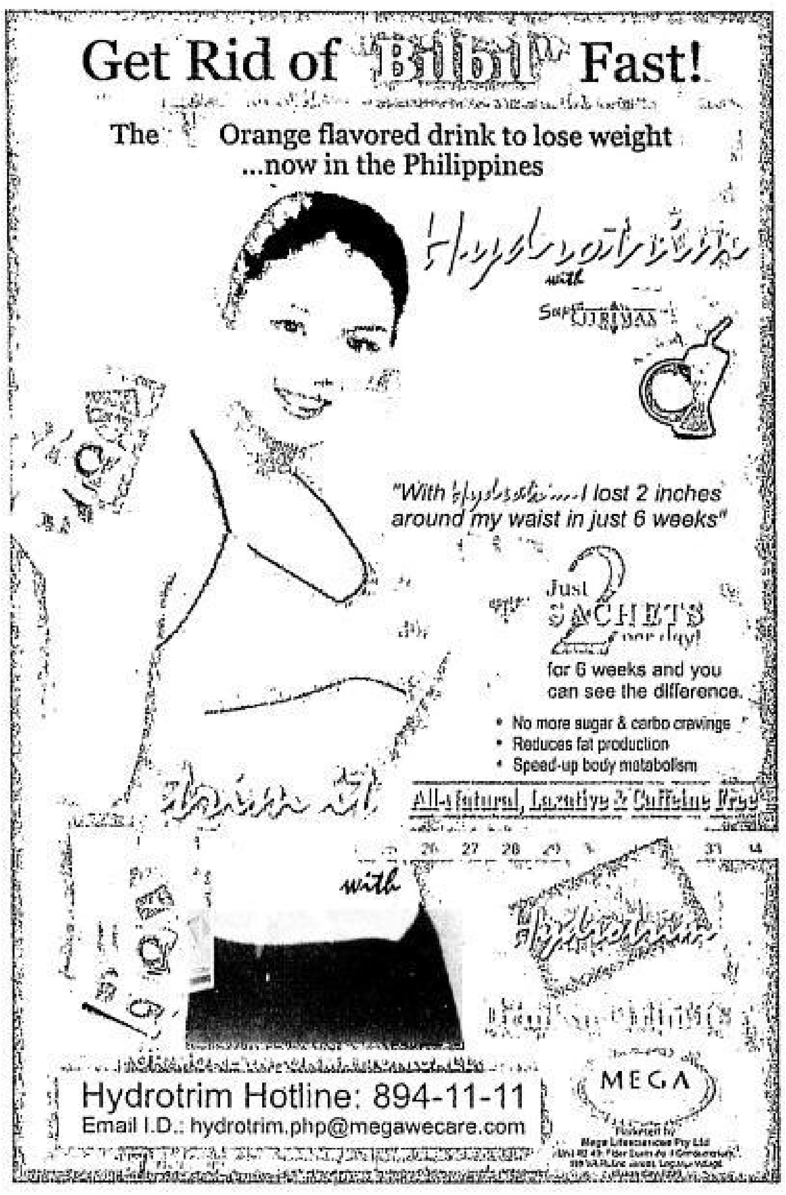
Jenni Epperson

WHO CAN EVER FORGET TOM CRUISE'S defining scene in "Risky Business" where he danced around in nothing but a polo shirt, tighty whities and tube socks?

That Hollywood moment put "Risky Business" on the pop-culture map. It also turbo-launched the popularity of an iconic fashion item—no, not the briefs and tube socks combo, but Ray-Ban Wayfarer shades. It's hard to think of Tom Cruise in that movie without them.

That 1983 movie became pivotal in cementing Tom Cruise's career, and likewise re-launched Ray-Ban Wayfarers as an inimitable Hollywood accessory. Some 360,000 pairs were sold each year since

BABY/ E2



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Red see. Sienna Miller, Rachel Bilson and Ashley Olsen

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Baby, I love your shades

From page E1

they appeared in that movie, and when they also graced "Miami Vice" and "Moonlighting," sales skyrocketed to 1.5 million. The shades became the decade's defining accessory.

Hollywood celebrities of an earlier era, Marilyn Monroe and James Dean among them, also helped popularize Ray-Ban Wayfarers. But it was Audrey Hepburn who first elevated Wayfarers to legendary status when she wore a tortoiseshell pair in the classic film "Breakfast at Tiffany's."

They seemed to be the perfect, versatile choice for Hollywood stars, their versatility showcased by the spectrum of celebrities across generations who had anointed Wayfarers as their preferred eyewear—John F. Kennedy, Bob Dylan, Andy Warhol, Kim Novak, even Anna Wintour.

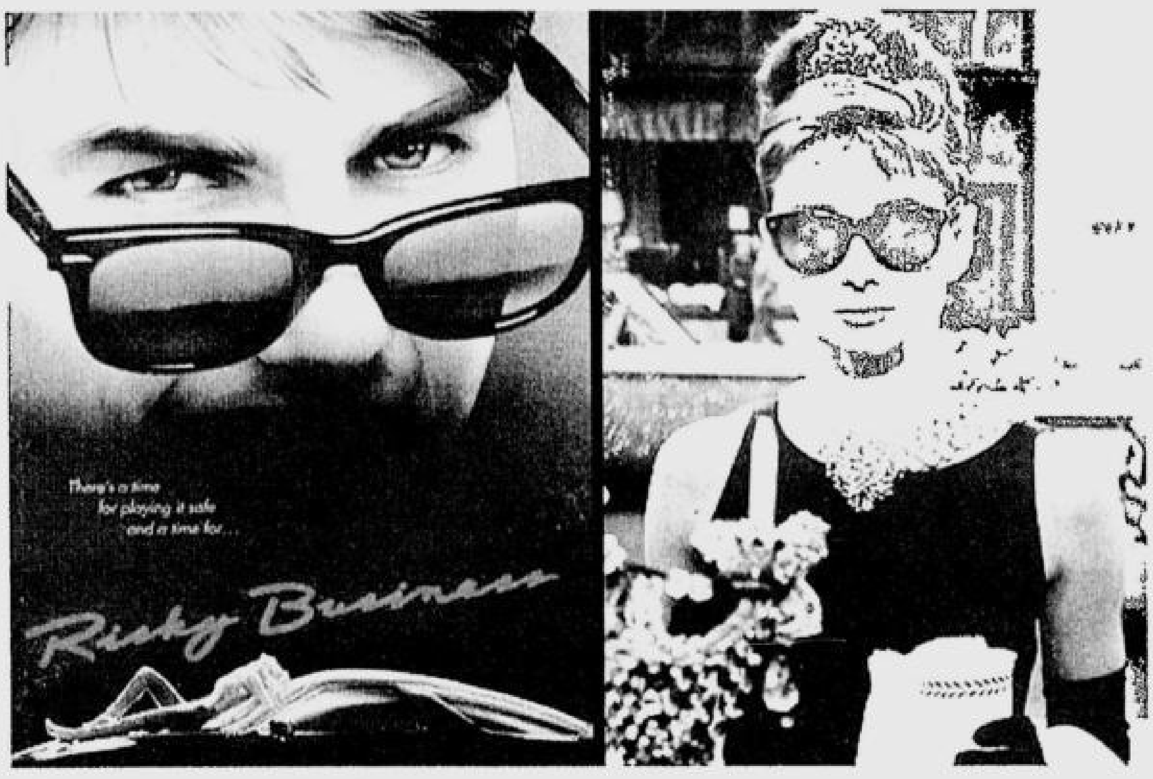
Ray-Ban Wayfarers, hailed as the "connoisseur's choice," were first created in 1952 and have since become the best-selling shades in history. This season, Ray-Ban reintroduces the classic sunglasses with modern versions reflective of the times. The newer versions come in smaller sizes and in several colors such as transparent blue, honey and pearl gray—perfect for Asians and for those with small faces.

The special-edition 2140 Wayfarers are handmade from the same materials and specifications as the original design, from the hinge detail to the angled face.

And look who's sporting them this time around? Mischa Barton, Drew Barrymore, Kirsten Dunst, Kate Moss and Sienna Miller!

It's time to part with your *plato*-sized sunnies and say hello to the classic Wayfarers.

E-mail the author at jfashion@inquirer.com.ph


There's a time for playing it safe and a time for...
Risky Business

Silver screen shades. Tom Cruise in "Risky Business" and Audrey Hepburn in "Breakfast at Tiffany's"

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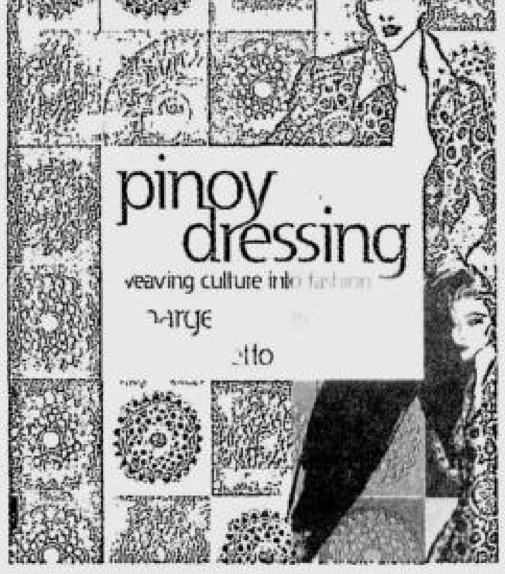
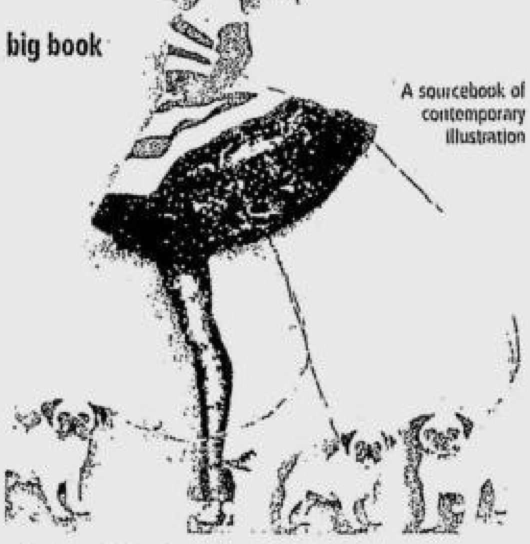
FASHION BOOKS FASHION BOOKS FASHION BOOKS

Reading is always in fashion. Here are INQUIRER Fashion's top picks for this month





'Pinoy Dressing: Weaving Culture into Fashion,' by Barge Ramos

Anvil Publishing

"Pinoy Dressing" first graced the pages of Malaya Living in the summer of 1990 as an attempt to continue and integrate indigenous culture into modern design and enrich it with new ideas for contemporary applications. Whether these ideas pertained to fashion in particular or to society in general, the vision is the same—to celebrate the tapestry of our lives as Filipinos through the evolution of fashion.

'The Big Book of Fashion Illustration,' by Martin Dawber

Page One Publishing

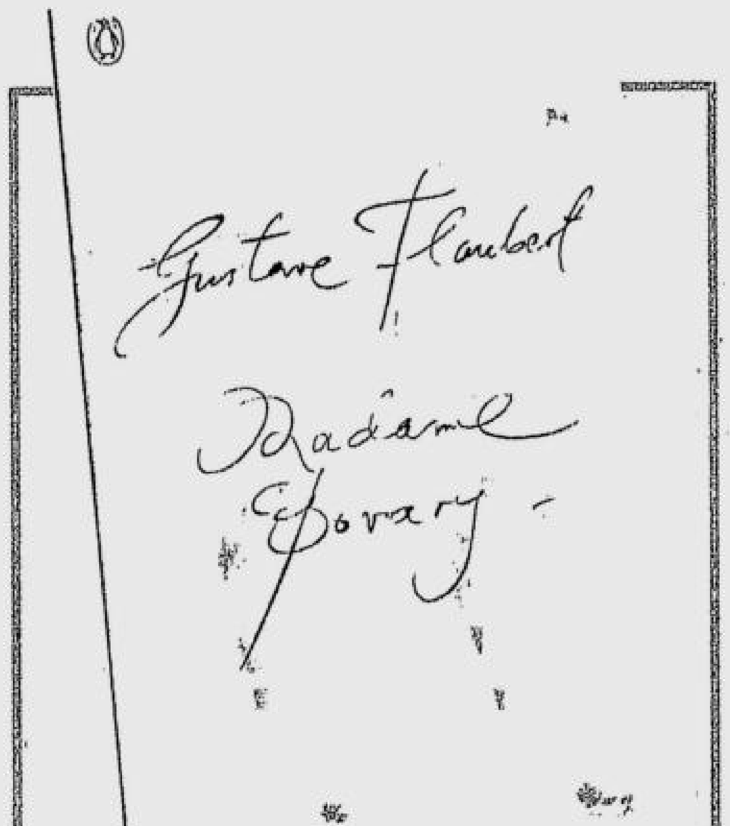
Contains almost a thousand new and innovative fashion illustrations from over 250 artists from every part of the world. The illustrations are inspirational examples employing every media and technique, including traditional watercolors, acrylics, pencil drawings, as well as digital photography and collage..

'The Bags'

Page One Publishing

With a contemporary look and compact size, "The Bags" shows full-color images and new trends from over 100 bag designers from five continents. This book brims with creative ideas for all sorts of bags, from dressy totes to shopping bags.

All books available at Fully Booked Power Plant Mall, Rockwell; and Bonifacio High Street, Global City



WIN!

Get a chance to win this Penguin Red Classic edition of Gustave Flaubert's "Madame Bovary" with a specially designed cover by none other than Manolo Blahnik, courtesy of Fully Booked. Just e-mail us at jfashion@inquirer.com.ph what your favorite fashion book is and why it rocks!

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TREi and the Art of Living Well

The boons and benefits of modern 21st Century society - personal computing, email, transcontinental air travel - do come at a price. We live in a multi-tasking world, where, instead of finding more time for personal pursuits, we find ourselves juggling more things to do. What that bodes for us is stress, the one true evil of modern life. Stress causes everything from migraines, ulcers, malaise, even chronic ailments. "When stress threatens to drown out that which makes us happy, tranquil and content, it becomes all the more imperative to slow down, take an introspective look at one's self, and actively pursue one's own well being," says Pam Davila-Pascual, TREi's Chief Operating Officer. "That's where TREi is in a unique position to help."

Enter TREi

TREi stands for Total Recreational Experience, Inc., a pioneering concept in experiential lifestyle living that gives its members unprecedented access to a multitude of prestigious lifestyle products and unique personalized services. Through its innovative delivery platform, the TREi Lifestyle Counselor, a 24/7 personal concierge service that arranges all your needs and makes things happen, TREi delivers unparalleled convenience, time savings and excellent value for money. Whether it's for work or play or even personal well being, TREi provides a direct hotline to your peace of mind.

Pamper Yourself

Nothing defeats stress like a day at the spa, where you can relax your body while soothing the mind and releasing pent-up inner tension. With TREi, privileged pampering is within easy reach. Working with several prestigious wellness partners, TREi lets you find personal balance away from the din of the outside world with added perks. Book a treatment, say a Japanese Volcanic Stone Massage, at the Neo Day Spa through the TREi TLC and you'll receive a premium voucher that gives you an extra treatment to add to your relaxation and personal pampering. At Belo Medical, you'll get preferential arrangements on spa treatments and cosmetic packages as well. TREi's own Spa Destination Facility at the TREi PonteFino in Batangas City will open its newly renovated floors to members in 2008 who want a quick getaway outside Metro Manila, offering exclusive facilities and exotic massage treatments from around the world.

A Better, Stronger, Faster You

Personal fitness has come of age.

Once the exclusive domain of body builders and professional athletes, fitness centers are full of people determined to take care of their bodies. "Whether for weight reduction, strength training or a pick-me-up before going to work, the gym is a part of modern day life and TREi is aware of that," explains Daniel Feliciano, TREi Marketing Officer. In close partnership with Gold's Gym, TREi has your personal fitness in mind. With each payment of monthly dues, a TREi member may avail of access to Gold's Gym facilities 3 times a week. "Gold's Gym will also soon be managing the Fitness Center at Hotel PonteFino, currently undergoing expansion to include state of the art equipment and facilities," adds Feliciano.

The Siren Call of Water

Perhaps it's the fact that our bodies are composed mostly of water that draws us to oceans and lakes, to swim, frolic, relax and enjoy the waves and sand, sun and sea. If it's aqua sports you're looking for, TREi's adventure sports partners should keep you well satisfied. TREi gets you free wakeboarding lessons and preferred accommodation rates at the Camarines Sur Wakeboarding Complex (CWC) in Camarines Sur, free introductory dive and preferred rates at Eagle Point Resort in Batangas, and preferred rates on surfing packages at Stonemoney Surf in Zambales. TREi also gives sun-loving TREi members access to resorts such as El Nido in Palawan, Sumilon Bluewater Island Resort and Maribago Bluewater Beach Resort in Cebu, and The Tides in Boracay.

Thinking Green

For some people, a relaxing day means a pleasant time at the links playing a full round of golf with their buddies. If you're tired of swinging your clubs at your usual haunt, TREi unlocks the gates to numerous golf courses around the country for its members, including Eagle Ridge Golf and Residential Estates, Caliraya Spring Golf Marina, Summit Point Golf and Residential Estates, Lakewood City, Palos Verdes, the Camp John Hay Golf Club and Mimosa Golf and Country Club. Simply book your round with the TREi TLC and gain instant entry to these exclusive courses.

Caring for your Health

Infirmity and illness strike when least expected. To provide you with support and assistance in times of medical need, TREi has partnered with the New Medical City Hospital, the Philippines' biggest, most advanced hospital to date. Booking a room at Medical City through the TREi TLC provides immediate convenience and benefit, such as express admission, an immediate room upgrade, and even a 15 percent discount across all hospital charges, including professional fees. By no means limited to emergency cases, this also includes elective procedures and treatments.

Living the TREi Life

"As a lifestyle enabler, TREi is committed to providing its members with whatever they need, be it making travel arrangements, organizing a dinner party or press con, providing access to exclusive events or booking an appointment at the vet," Pascual emphasizes. "Our holistic approach to lifestyle likewise includes the health, fitness, sports and wellness aspects of our members' lives. We're there to anticipate those needs and provide for them when the member wants it, continually benefiting their lives through convenience, time and value."

"You want it?" asks Pascual? "TREi can make it happen. And that's a promise."

TRAVE
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You want it?

We can make it happen.

TREi

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Your TREi Lifestyle Counselor (TLC)

TREi's 24/7 virtual concierge may be accessed anytime from anywhere in the country for assistance in various lifestyle needs. Plan a vacation, book airline tickets, make reservations at a fancy restaurant, get the latest information on exclusive sale events, or send flowers to your loved one, all from your mobile phone. Your own personal TLC - dedicated, courteous, efficient and fully capable of providing the ultimate form of personalized concierge service.

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TREi believes in treating its members to the finest experiences possible.

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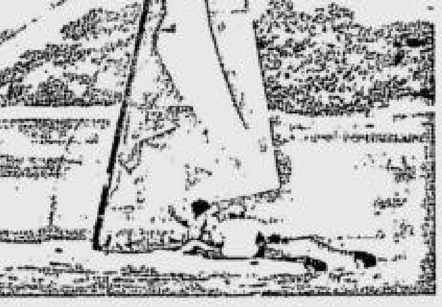
Watch the latest concerts of international stars from the front row
Always be the first to view Hollywood's up and coming blockbusters

We know the Good Life

We believe in dreams coming true. Help us find yours.



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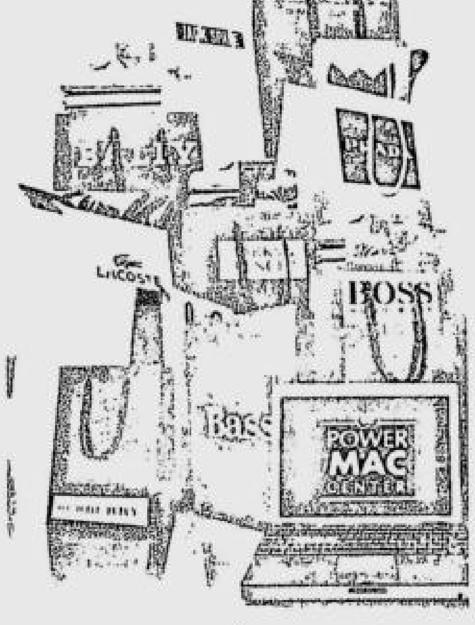

TREi

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BE A MEMBER! CALL NOW!
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Men's fashion looks East

EASY rider

THE SUIT life

AS RISING PROSPERITY transforms the Asia-Pacific region, Hugo Boss looks eastward for inspiration for its Fall/Winter 2007/2008 collection.

But the influence is always with a light touch: It's understated and sophisticated, reflected in a balanced and restrained color palette, in design details and in delicate graphic touches.

Tailoring for the city is clean, sharp and elegant, freshened by an emerging sportswear aesthetic.

The two-button single-breasted slimline suit is the dominant shape, although three-button suits and three-piece looks are also in the mix.

For the winter wrap-up, new technical nylon coats and high-shine leather make a strong impact. Shirts range from slim and fitted through to textured solids and a "softline" washed range, complemented by ties.

For urban menswear, colors are dark, with black and gray to the fore. The look is sharp, precise and focused for Fall. The theme's influences range from modern Asia to cool Mod style of the 1960s and today's cutting-edge music scene. The perfect suits are close-fitting two-button or three-button single-breasted with notably shorter jacket lengths.

Fabrics with structure are back. Luxury mixes include cashmere, silk, angora and mohair. Tonal stripes dominate suitings, although a slight hint of color adds more character to the season's most directional cloths.

A more relaxed and casual-focused theme, although even for the weekend, the look is still sharp and refined. The new two-button casual sports jackets are fitted and short, with velvet or leather under collars and new piping details.

Structured wool jackets and coats are also fitted and short, perfect to wear with knitwear, a strong feature of the season.

Take your pick from cashmeres, cash wools and other luxury mixes in a variety of innovative new styles, including seamless roll neck cashmere sweaters and printed herringbone merino wool cardigans.

Chunkier styles create volume but the yarns are super-soft and lightweight, a pleasure to wear.

The colors are warm and natural, including brown, beige, camel, mustard and olive. Soft checks, herringbones, tweeds, flannels and velvets provide plenty of tactile fabric options, often in wool or luxury natural mixes.

Hugo Boss is exclusively distributed by Stores Specialists, Inc. The boutiques are located at Greenbelt 4 and Shangri-La Plaza Mall.

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BLACK poly puffer down jacket, black allover sparkle tulip skirt, black virgin wool racerback tank, black knitted fingerless long glove, black metallic suede zip-up ankle high heel boot, black opaque

Clean cut

INNOVATIVE URBAN ELEGANCE defines ck Calvin Klein for women for Fall 2007.

Clean, modern shapes draw inspiration from architecture and sculptures. New pared-down silhouettes with volume and drape replace embellishment and adornment. Fabrics are technical, sculptural, bonded and compact in cashmere, scuba stretch, wool and poly crepe, lacquered leather, silk organza, nylon, parachute weight cottons, and athletic mesh.

The high-performance technological material meets an updated, modern American style. Oversized volumes balance skinnier silhouette, with luxe womenswear in felted cashmere and wool gabardine woven with lurex for luster and shine.

Silhouettes are cut with precision. Funnel necks and sculptural hoods on outwear give a modern edge. Lacquered chiffon, metallicized velvets and liquid jerseys are used for asymmetric cut tops and dresses for day and evening.

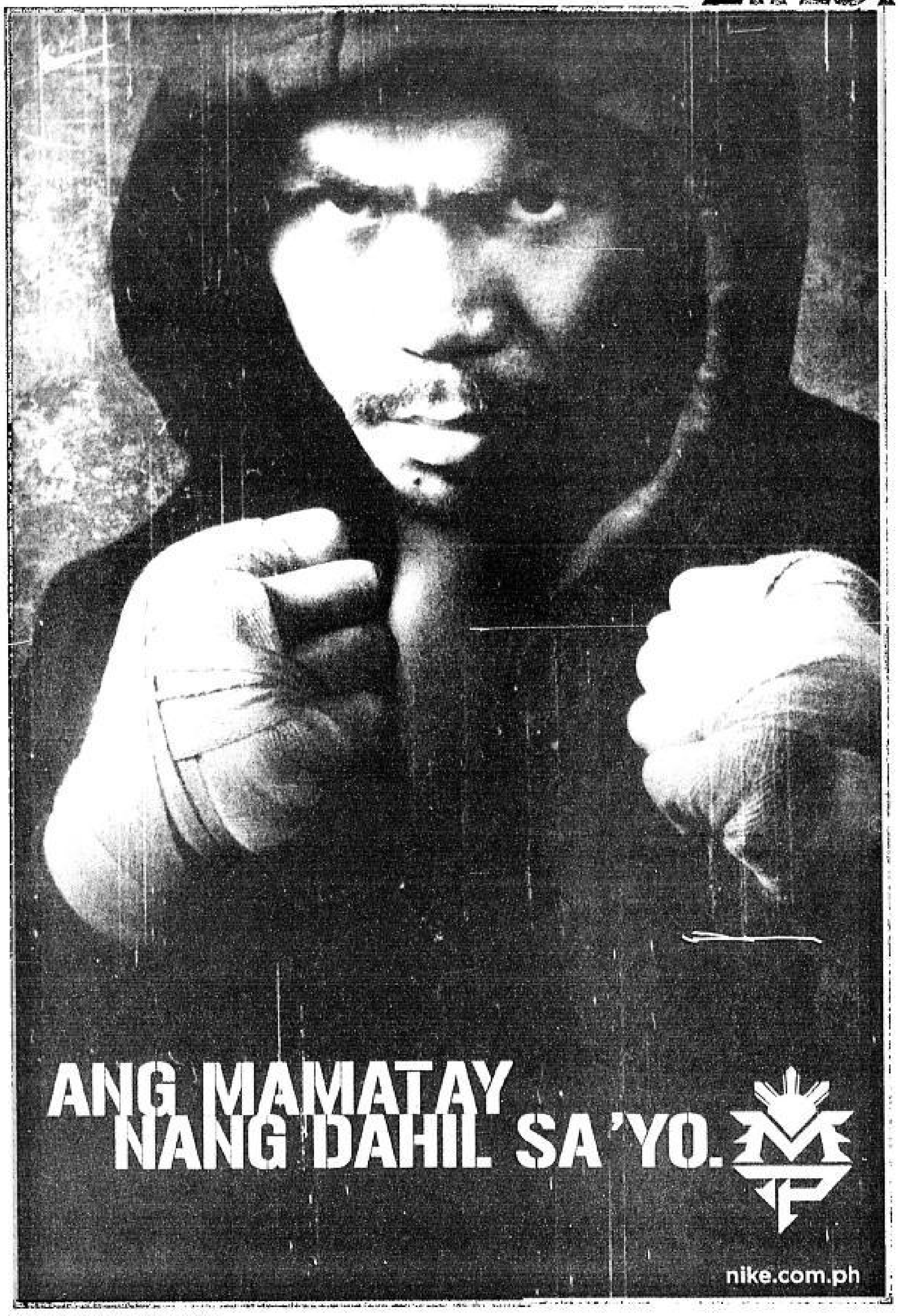
There are subtle utilitarian details throughout. The color palette is restrained and somber, with rich shades of midnight, navy, and indigo mixed with essential black and tones of grays with lustrous metallic touches. Pants are skinny or voluminous with pleats, but always masculine. The classic pencil skirt is rendered modern in sophisticated fine lurex wool paired with an oversized hooded lacquered nylon bomber.

Sculptural dresses and high-waisted skirts worn with asymmetrical tops make for evening wear. Bags are oversized, or mini, graphic and compact in metallics. Black nappa gloves are long and elegant, or short and suede gloves. The metallic suede pump or ankle boot with a glossy heel paired with dark hose allows for total coverage during the fall season.

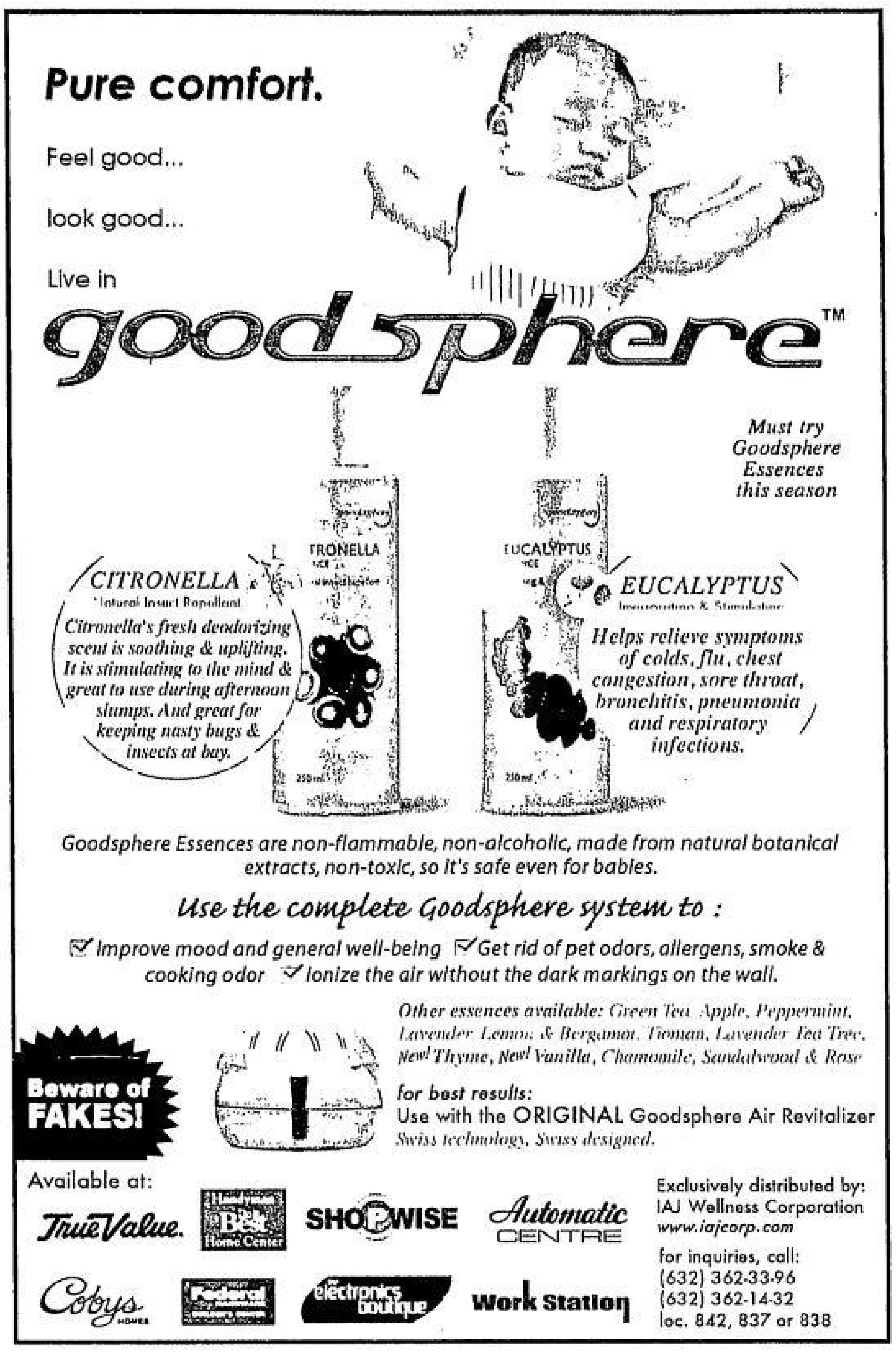
ck Calvin Klein is exclusively distributed by Stores Specialists, Inc. (SSI) and is located at Power Plant Mall and Rustan's Makati.

BLACK metallic viscose scoop neck kimono sleeve top, black scuba stretch jopper pant, black metallic leather wide belt with big metal buckle, black knitted fingerless long glove, black merino wool knitted snood, black metallic leather clutch, black metallic leather ankle strap high heel shoe, black opaque tights

BLACK virgin wool engineered rib exaggerated sleeve sweater, black & white tweed high waist skirt, black metallic suede zip-up ankle high heel boot, Black opaque, and necklace


ANG MAMATAY NANG DAHIL SA 'YO.
nike.com.ph

PHOTOGRAPHY BY TOM EPPERSON



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Iconic shirt for boxing icon

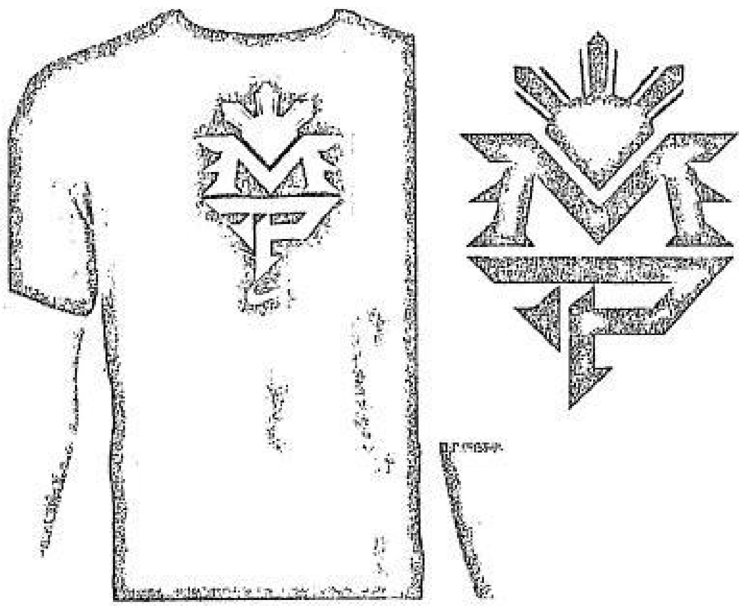
FVSHION BUZZ
Hot, haute, hot news!

IN HONOR OF BOXER Manny Pacquiao, Nike Philippines has unveiled the Pacquiao identity mark and crest.

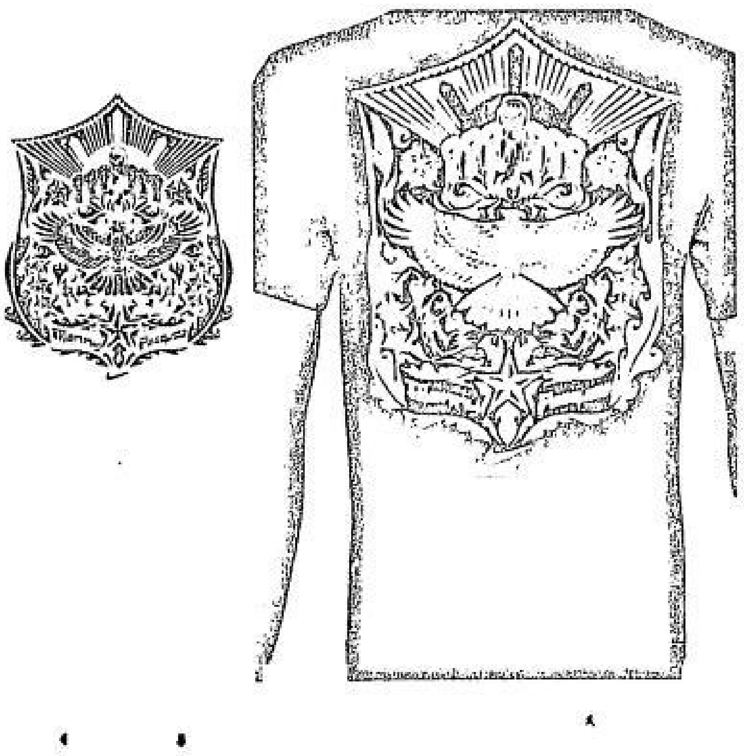
Inspired by the life of the world's best pound-for-pound boxer today, the crest recognizes Pacquiao's status as a national athlete, evoking the Filipino coat of arms while the identity mark bears the boxer's initials designed with the rising sun inspired by the national flag.

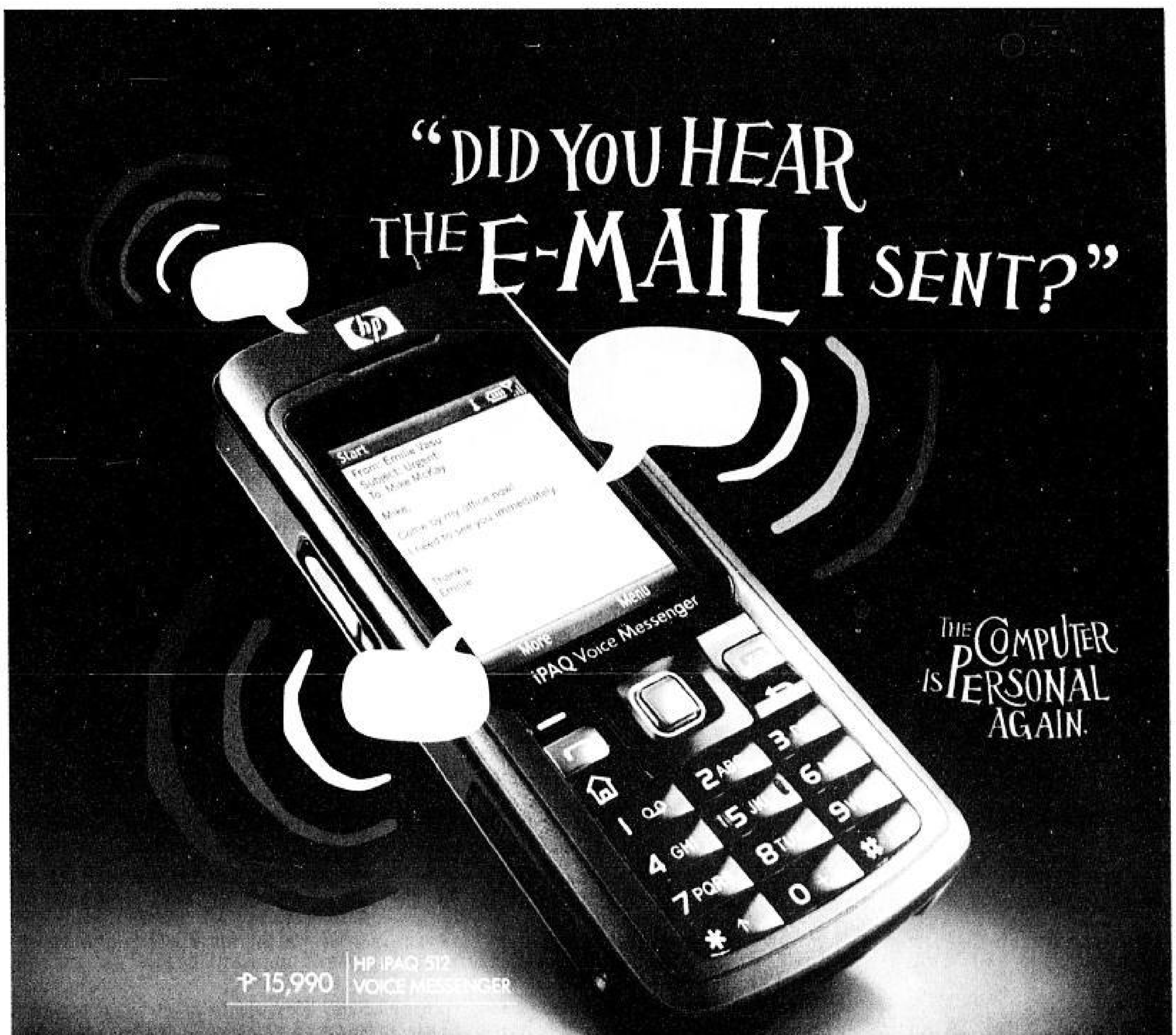
"Manny Pacquiao is the first Filipino athlete to ever have an official Nike identity mark and crest developed after his iconic stature," said Nike Philippines country marketing manager Melissa Crucillo.

Rally for "Pacman" this Oct. 6 when he faces Marco Barrera by wearing these designs available to the public through a limited-edition Nike FIT Dri T-shirt, available at Nike stores nationwide at P895.



MANNY Pacquiao T-shirt with Pacquiao mark

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Step sisters

Most women do enjoy a curious love affair with shoes. We seem to be gifted with the talent to zero in on that perfect pair whether they are on the shelves or on people's feet

By Malu A. Gamboa
Contributor

"SHOES ARE MY VERSION OF Prozac. When I have new shoes, I do truly feel as if I'm walking on air. I have a silly grin on my face the whole day and I have a good mood for the longest time. At night, I either put the shoes by the bed, or wear them to sleep with my feet dangling at the edge of the bed. I know, I need help."

True confessions of Leah Puyat, who keeps a Shoe Journal. Her current favorite is "a peep-toe slingback with a low platform in sage green that has a satin vamp and heel, with a leather accent on the vamp. For now I love it because: A) it's an odd color that I can treat as a neutral because of its tonality; B) the mix of leather and satin means I can take it from day to night, which is always a plus; C) the way it cradles and supports my foot and yet reveals my ankles and toes is a winner combination in a shoe."

Leah used 59 words to describe her favorite pair from Janilyn. This admitted shoeholic who has found her happy pill in shoes is not alone.

Most women do enjoy a curious love affair with shoes. We seem to be gifted with the talent to zero in on that perfect pair whether they are on the shelves or on people's feet. For Ruby Gan, shoes "complete the sentence. Is it an exclamation point to show surprise? Awe? Is it a question mark? Or an ellipsis that leaves the onlookers wondering what you're wearing next?"

Ruby's love for the high heel has inspired her to launch the successful chain of Schu stores.

The right shoe can spell the difference to how you feel throughout the day. The idea of wearing uncomfortable shoes is over. When Oprah came out with a feature on comfortable high heels made by a former Nike shoe scientist, everyone was prepared to give Cole Haan a second look.

For Angelique Villaraza, "the fit must be perfect because I do a lot of walking. A bad fit will always hurt your feet, and although I love shoes... I love my feet even more."

Crickette Tantoco goes to Cesar Gaupo, Manila's answer to Manolo Blahnik, for bespoke standouts because they are "exquisitely designed, skillfully handcrafted and custom-made just for me."

Cecile Zamora, an acknowledged "bag lady" (you'll see why in her Chuvaness blog), just goes straight for Louis Vuitton trainers.

"I'm not a sexy kind of shoe girl. I don't like tiny or pointed shoes. I can't wear open-toe shoes because my toes have no "K."

INQUIRER Fashion polled some of Manila's fashionable ladies on their love affair with shoes. Find out about their favorite cobblers and shoe-buying preferences.

Angelique Villaraza

Favorite Shoe: Pink bejeweled Guiseppe Zanotti satin heels. They instantly dress up any outfit and are very comfortable.

What do you look for in a shoe? Must have character, an unusual detail.

Favorite brand: I have a collection of Guiseppe Zanotti bejeweled heels. They are well-made, of very high quality, and the embellishments are tastefully done.

Shoe-buying style: The shoe must speak to me loud and clear from its show window or from its perch on the display box. It must have a detail that no other shoe has... which means I don't like basic black or brown leather numbers.

Ruby Gan

Favorite Pair: Orange Dolce & Gabbana sandals. I love colors and orange is such a happy color! I like that they look timeless and can actually be worn with anything, day or night.

What do you look for in a shoe? I usually look for a unique style. Is it high enough? Does the pair make a statement? I don't like ho-hum shoes, and I love shoes that give the impression of loooooong legs!

Favorite brand: I have a lot of favorites! I love Louboutin because he can be serious then playful next. Definitely, I like the slope of his heels—they're sexy. I also like the no-nonsense style of Prada and YSL—they're truly fashion-forward!

Shoe-buying style: Definitely, sexy and standout! Shoes for me complete the whole look!

Crickette Tantoco

What do you look for in a shoe? Comfort, quality and panache.

Favorite brand: Stuart Weitzman because of the variety of styles they offer to match my every whim and mood.

Shoe-buying style: Style then comfort.

Shoes for me... determine what makes or breaks an outfit.

Andy Cruz

What do you look for in a shoe? Style and function.

Favorite brand: I have no favorite brand. If I see a pair I like, I get them.

Shoes for me are... a girl's best friend!

Leah B. Puyat

What do you look for in a shoe? I look for the same thing I do in a man—an instant, irresistible gravitational pull that can be caused by any number of factors. An odd color is a plus. For the longest time, I didn't own basic black day shoes. Maybe because I grew up in a Catholic girls' school and had to wear basic black shoes for 12 years every day! Next, unique texture or mix of textures. An unexpected pleasure is also a treat. I have a shoe that has tiger-print insoles that can barely be seen. Overall, it just has to be love at first sight.

Favorite brand: Prada, because Miuccia Prada is a genius. She can make shoes that are sensible, sensuous, seductive, and yet not in an overt way. The minute I put on a pair of Prada shoes, it's like the pair was measured on my foot.

Shoe-buying style: The higher the better.

Cecile Zamora

Favorite pair: I love my Vuitton trainers. I can wear them with pants or a skirt and the color goes well with a lot of my clothes. I move a lot easier on trainers.

What do you look for in a shoe? Color, style, what compliments my wardrobe.

Favorite brand: Vuitton makes the best trainers. I love Chloe and Marc Jacobs shoes which make me taller.

Shoes for me are... not a priority. I'd rather spend on a bag.

Moving to the rhythm of life

It is in the music scene where changes are instantly felt and celebrated. Here, revolutions start at the riff of the guitar, the crash of a cymbal or the pounding of the bass.

With the emergence of music trends such as MTV, music has evolved to become more of a lifestyle. It became a much bigger part of daily life and a more powerful driving force in our society.

MUSIC TELEVISION

And for generations of music lovers and enthusiasts, something as creatively complex and mysteriously moving as music is still best experienced first-hand.

This is where the Nokia Nseries music range multimedia devices come in. The technology of the Nokia Nseries music range multimedia devices is in tune with the needs and wants of the mobile generation – dynamic and creative individuals who move to the rhythm and beat of life, just like our featured music mavericks.

Already a veteran in the rock scene with a career spanning over two decades, Francis Reyes knows the power of those sounds very well. As the lead guitarist of The Dawn, he's an elder statesman of Pinoy Rock, having played rock anthems that have defined more than just one generation. Also, as a part of radio station NU 107.5, he has given listeners the chance not just to enjoy rock music, but also to choose from its many different genres out there – both foreign and local.

"I listen to all genres," he says, "each genre is a color, and I can't think of anything more annoying than insisting that one color is more interesting than another."

On choosing to make a career in music, he says, "I didn't want to become a musician until I heard Ritchie Blackmore mangle his guitar on 'Speed King' when I was fourteen," he says. "If you're really into music, it doesn't matter if you get paid or not. Playing a good note becomes a quest, holding an instrument becomes a compulsion."

"Music that affects you, I think, is a gift," he says.

"I also dabble in photography," says Francis about the all-in-one features of the Nokia Nseries. "The phone's camera offers good resolution. I can usually shoot a scene beforehand, and make framing decisions and such before I bring out my real camera." He says he likes that he can "also do instant research by going online for a bit, or send a quick email wherever I am. There's a radio feature, which means I can listen to NU and find out if the DJs are doing their job well or not!"

"It has made my life easier," says Armi Millare of Up Dharma Down. "Since I'm always on the go, the Nokia Nseries, being compact and portable, helps a lot."

As the front-woman of one of the most acclaimed and popular bands today, Armi is a role model. Because of her distinct vocals and keyboard playing, she is one of the most compelling performers both onstage and on record – and it's her passion for her craft that sets her apart. "Music has been this constant force in my life," she says. "It has pulled me up and down, but I still pursue it because I enjoy it so much."

"I make sure what I get is worth it," says Armi, "What makes the Nokia Nseries special is that I don't see other things in it that I don't need…I can store music, I can write lyrics and record melodies that sometimes just come up unexpectedly."

"I listen to music as often as I can," says music promoter/entrepreneur Jay Server, "Part of my job is to constantly update myself with regards to the different genres of music to be able to keep the different nights in Capone's dynamic."

What started as a hobby for Jay has since become a full-time occupation. He never tires of discovering and showcasing new talents, as well as meeting other people in the music scene. Of course, this entails a lot of moving around and waiting.

His Nokia Nseries phone, with its all-in-one feature, is what helps him pass the time when he has to wait. "Especially at airports or attending meetings," he says, "it allows me to bring my favorite music with me or get trippy with the camera when I'm bored."

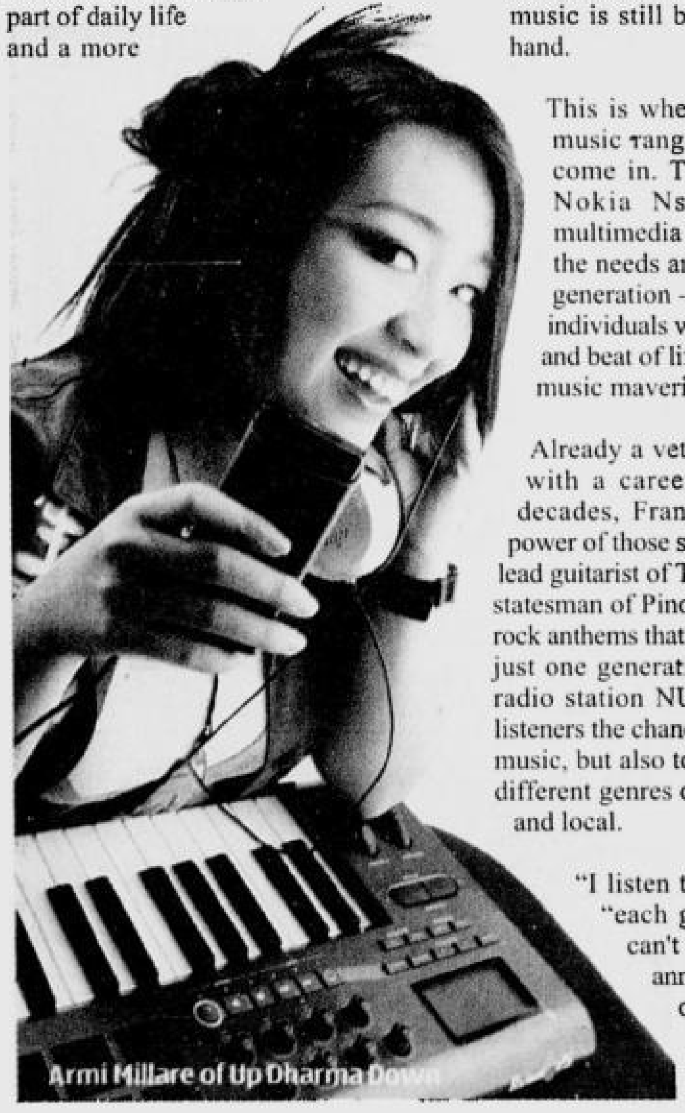
What makes the Nokia Nseries the preferred mobile technology of these music personalities?

"The Nokia Nseries, with its all-in-one capabilities, presents the user with an option to be able to simplify everyday life," says Jay.

"I'm a very practical person," says Armi, "and it has got all the essentials."

"In a word, everything," says Francis.

For today's creative individual, whether a musician or a music fan, the Nokia Nseries is the all-in-one multimedia device that features technology that's perfectly in tune to the demanding and dynamic lifestyle of the mobile generation.



Armi Millare of Up Dharma Down

Jay Server owner of Capones and Francis Reyes of The Dawn

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Step up the platform

SHINY Via Venetto leather platform heels

A NEW PLATFORM COLLECTION made with European leather such as patent, suede and kidskin—in different colors—is now in the shop windows of Via Vianetto.

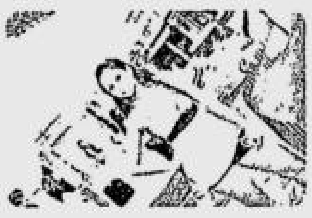
Aside from showcasing Filipino ingenuity and craftsmanship, these pieces are defi-

STEP/ G3

PATENT platforms in gold and silver

Having it All

Some people look for moments in their lives when they could actually say they have it all. It may be in a perfect date minus all the distractions. It may be while watching a high intensity concert, without getting irritated with loud and rowdy rockers. It may also be the moment you break your record in the treadmill, without pulling a hamstring. Wouldn't life feel a lot better when everything goes your way?



Well, perhaps you can't always get what you want, but you can still Have it All with Coke Light! You can enjoy your scrumptious meal and still drink the great taste of Coke Light without having to worry. And since it has no calories, you can enjoy as much as you want!

If this isn't prize enough, Coke Light goes all out for you to Have it All! Not only do you get great taste and no calories with every purchase of Coke Light, you also get a chance to win fantastic prizes from the Have it All tour!

Interested? Simply visit us on these dates to find out how:

Venue	Date
Fort Strip	September 28-29
ATC Activity Center	October 13-14
SM Mall of Asia and Greenbelt 3	October 5-6

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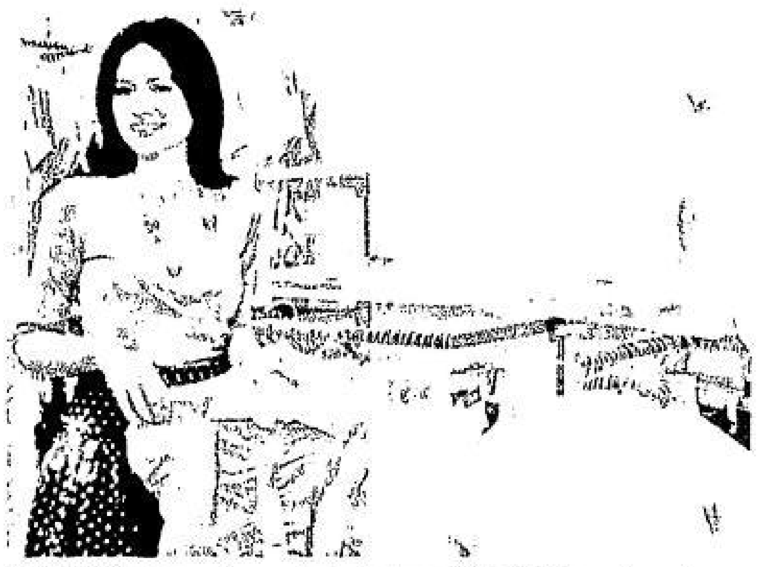
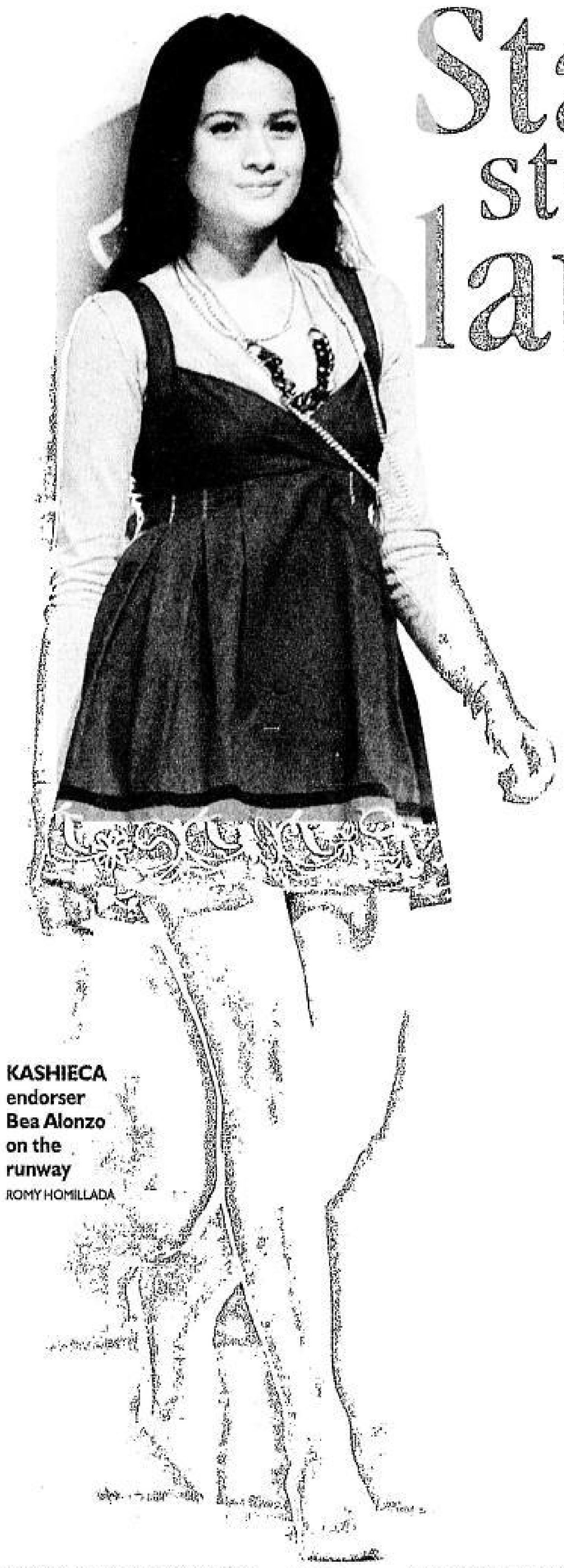
BENCH endorser Cruz checks out the Bench flagship store in TriNoma mall.



ALONZO browses through classic tops at the Kashieca store in TriNoma.

ALONZO signs Kashieca posters for her fans. ROMY HOMILLADA



KASHIECA endorser Bea Alonzo on the runway ROMY HOMILLADA

Starry, starry launch

RAIN COULD NOT STOP fans from trooping to the TriNoma Activity Center for the launching of movie stars Bea Alonzo and John Lloyd Cruz as endorsers for fashion brands Kashieca and Bench, respectively.

True to the Ben Chan tradition, Suyen Corporation welcomed the two celebrities as image models for its apparel lines with a fan- and fun-filled fashion show.

Finalists in the Bench-sponsored model search for the ABS-CBN reality TV show "Be Bench" also walked the runway with the latest Kashieca and Bench collections.

"All the clothes are in the stores now, " said Chan who had the smarts to maximize the mileage he would get from the mall show.

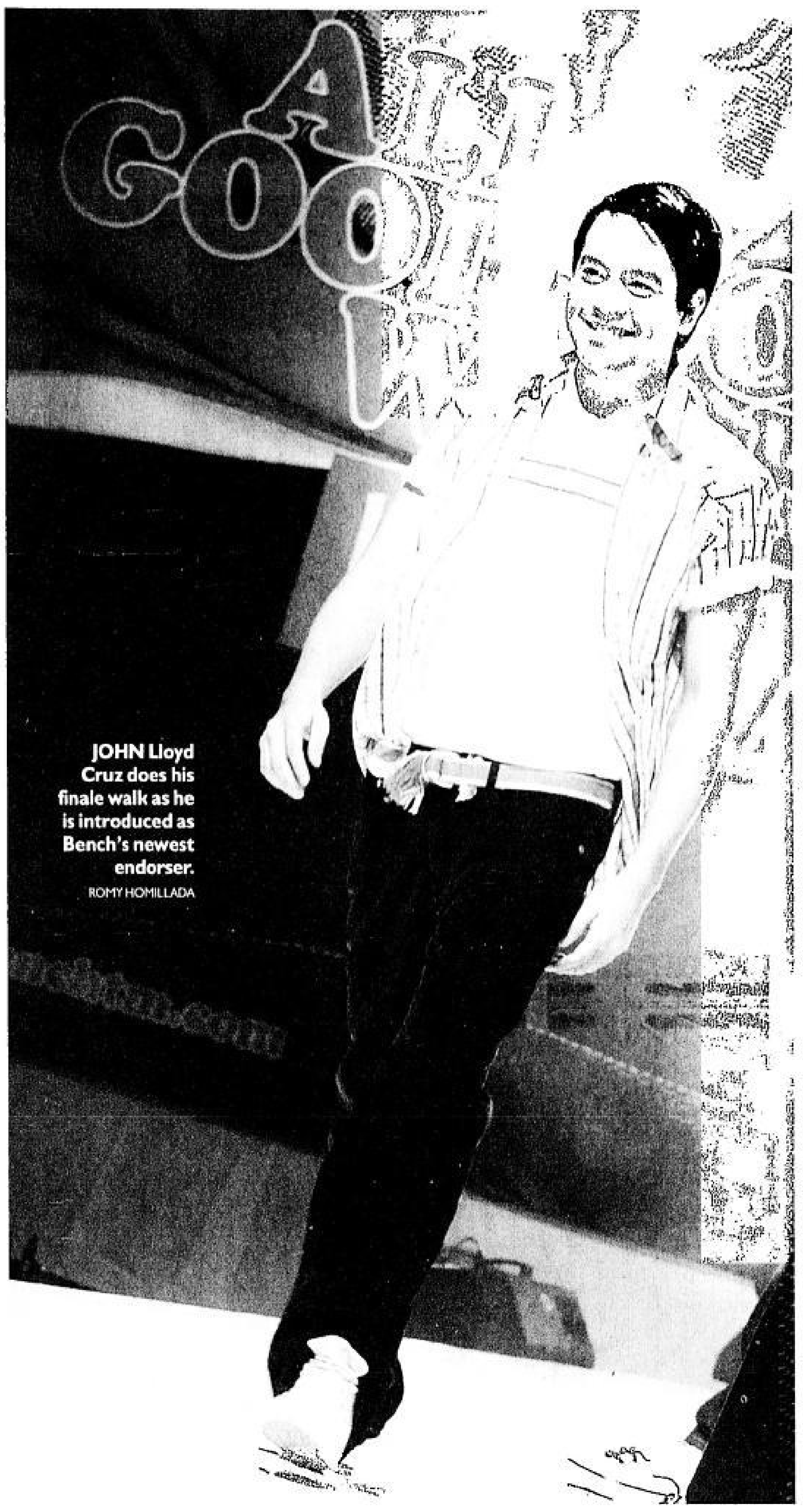
Alonzo and Cruz both lingered around to sign autographs for fans, more of whom followed them into the Kashieca and Bench stores.

"I am so pleased to have found a brand that fits me well," said Alonzo. "Kashieca's clothes are so easy to put together because they have clean lines and a lot of fun details. These pieces are great for me and for my daily work. I may be young but I still need to look well put-together."

Chan said Alonzo personified the Kashieca style—fresh, feminine and fun. The new Luxe line has added glamour to the collection.

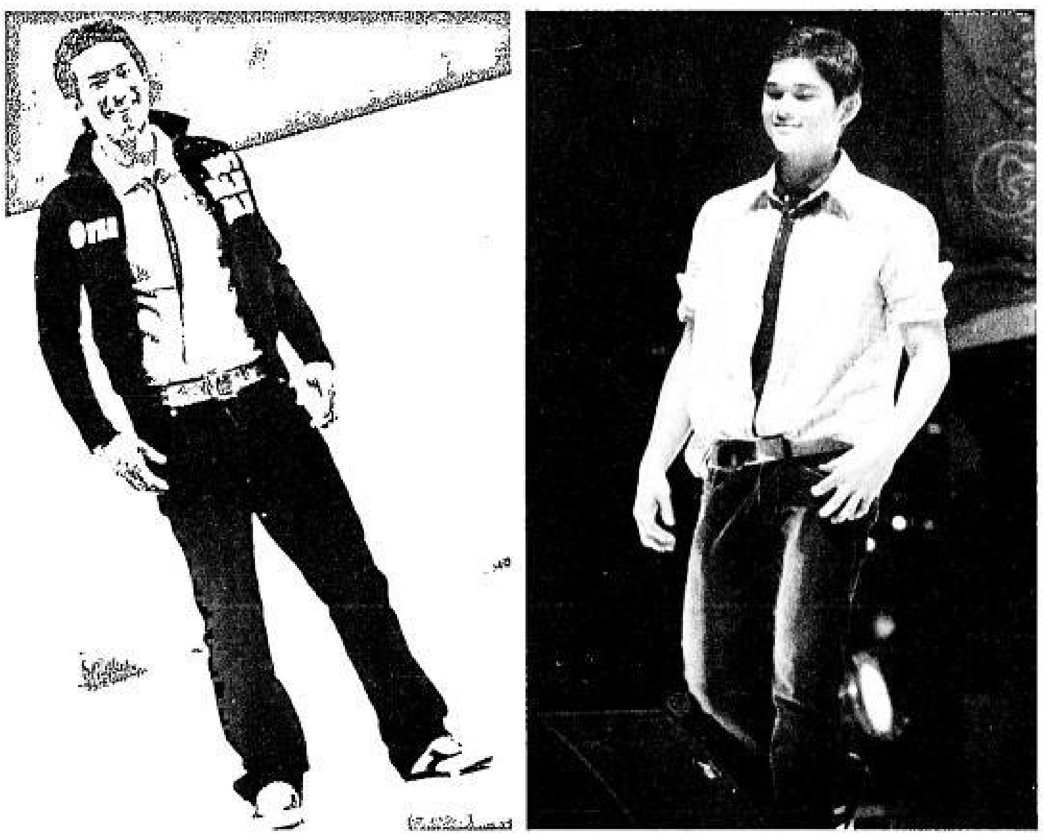
As for Cruz, he was a fitting addition to the Bench roster of celeb endorsers, according to Chan. Cruz is the biggest star du jour, judging by the roaring welcome he got from the crowd.

"We choose the best because we believe in excellence," said Chan. "From our designs to our workmanship to our market, Bench has always invested the best quality. We do it for our consumers. We want them to be happy with the Bench name as a whole."

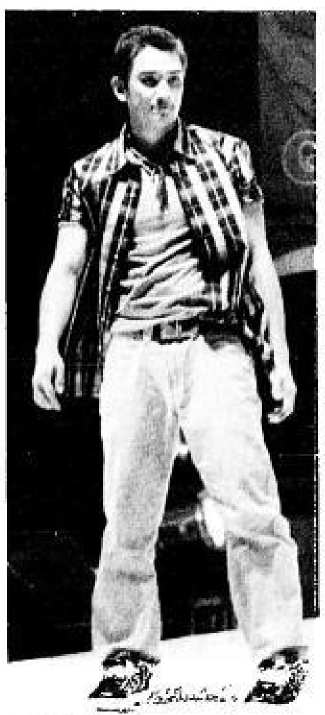


JOHN Lloyd Cruz does his finale walk as he is introduced as Bench's newest endorser. ROMY HOMILLADA

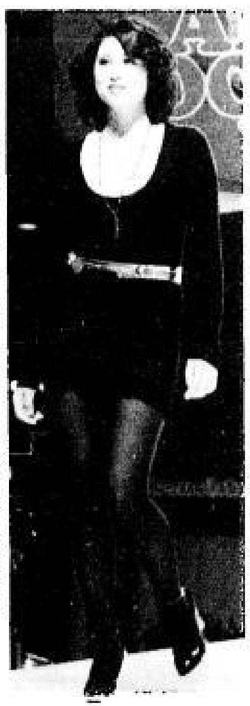
BENCH boss Ben Chan and Ayala Land's Rowena Tomeldan with Cruz, Alonzo and "Be Bench" finalists ROMY HOMILLADA



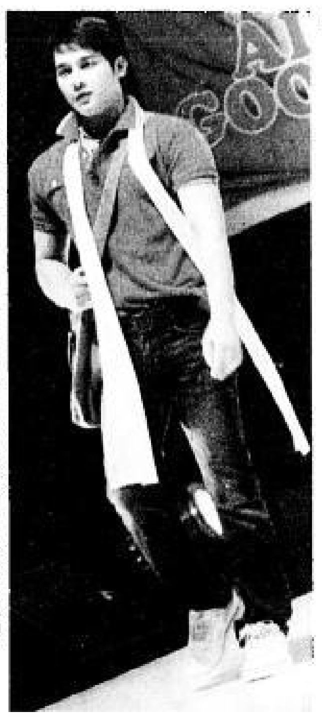
"BE BENCH" finalists join in the fun at the fashion show. ROMY HOMILLADA



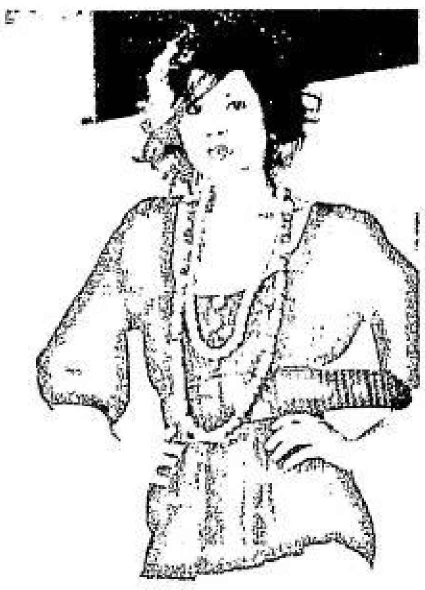
CHECKED button-down shirt over gray tee and khakis



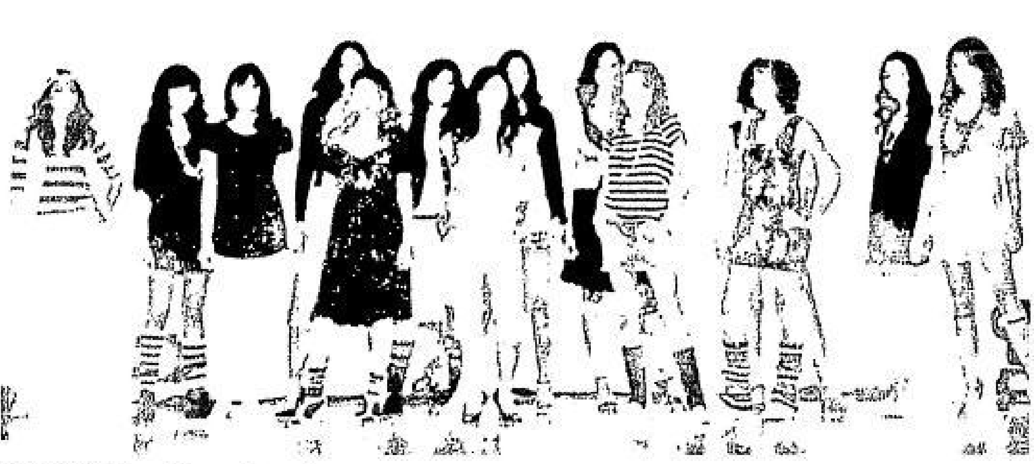
CHIC black-and-white dress and metallic accessories



SPORTY casual in denims, green polo shirt and white scarf



BLUE ¾-sleeve top, wide belt, white leggings and bead necklaces for added flair PHOTOS BY ROMY HOMILLADA



KASHIECA on the center stage

Step up the platform

From page G1

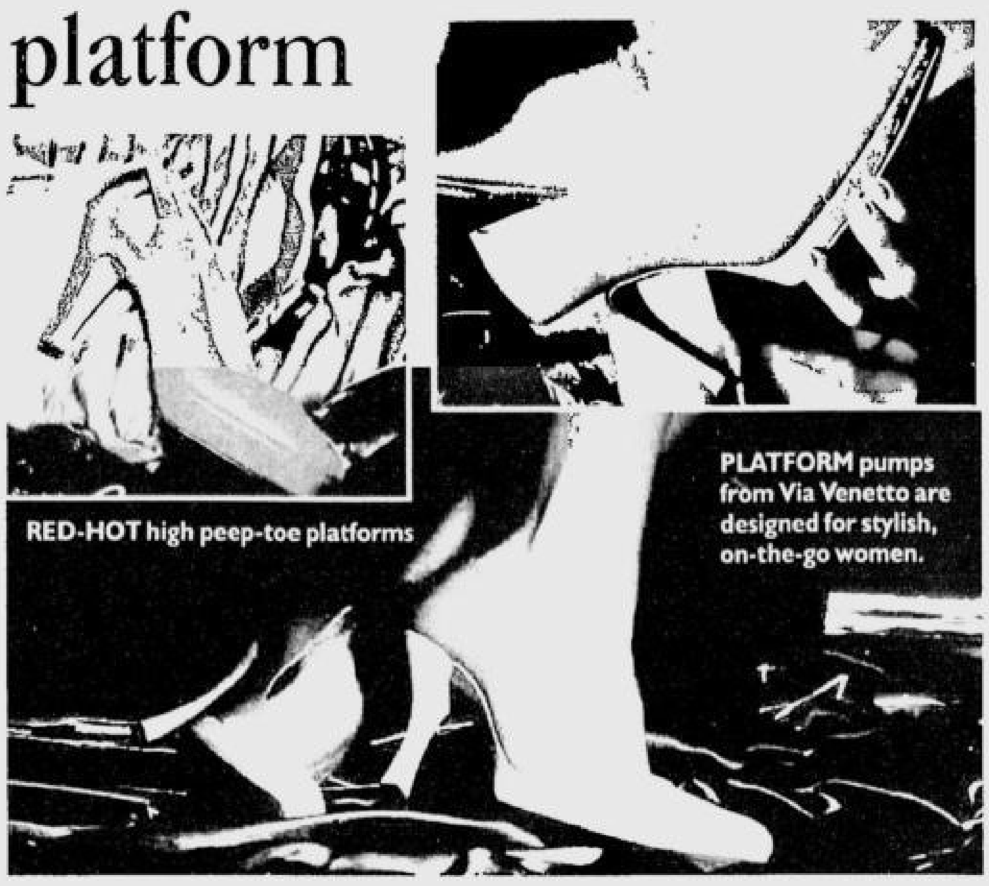
nite standouts, literally and figuratively, as they help shoe lovers step up in style.

Platform heels elongate the body, helping women achieve the illusion of height and fluidity and making them look stunningly sexy.

Elegant patent heels can dress up an elaborate all-night ensemble as their gold and silver finish shimmers throughout the night.

Walk around the city in fashionable peep-toe platforms that come in red and black, fit for all-day and all-night wear. Or be in your best corporate outfit but still be in vogue with Via Venetto's stylish skintone pumps. These versatile finds go well with your chic office attire as well as with your sassy party wear.

Via Venetto stores are at Glorietta 1, Greenbelt 1, SM Megamall, Alabang Town Center and TriNoma.



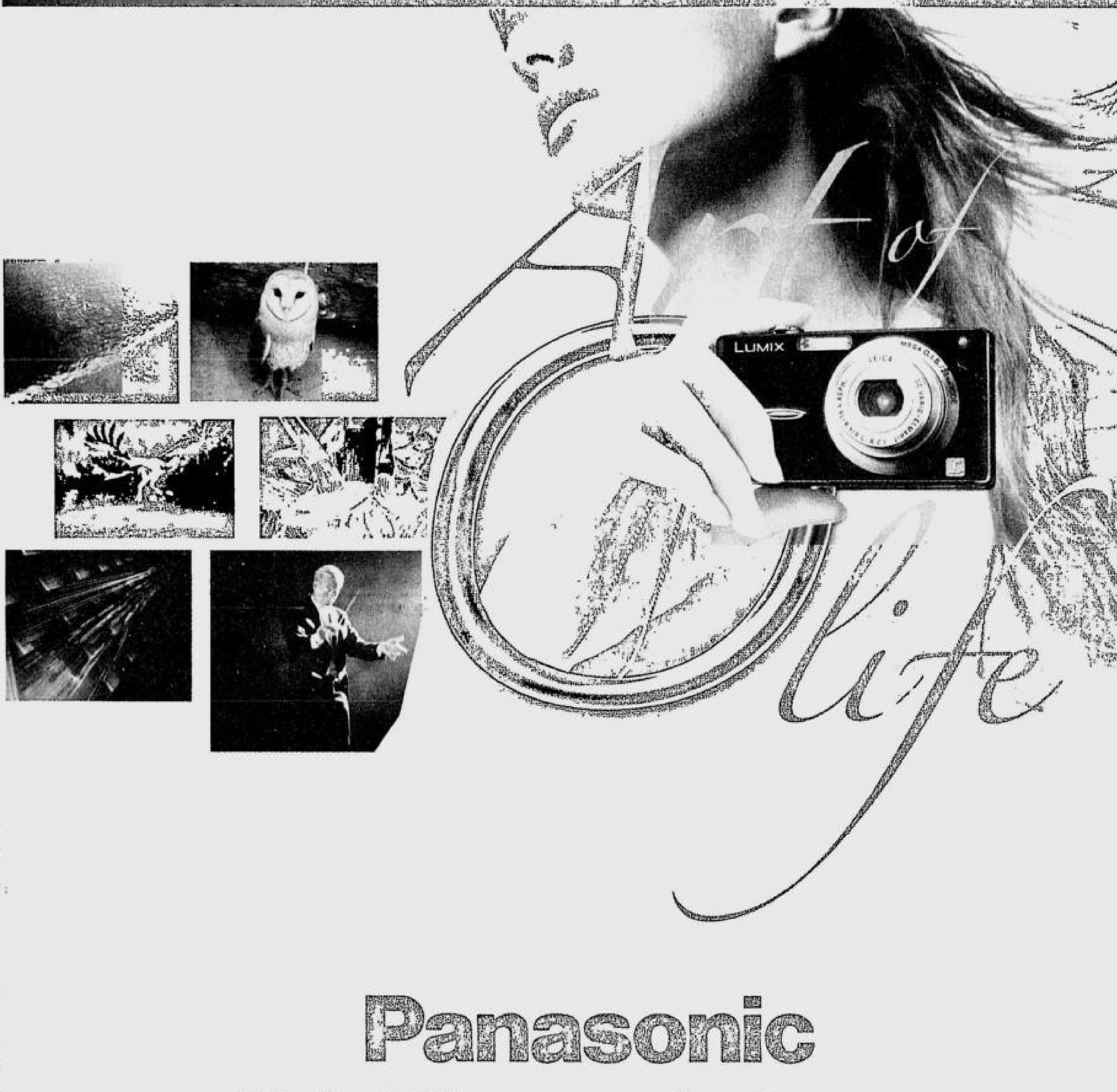
RED-HOT high peep-toe platforms

PLATFORM pumps from Via Venetto are designed for stylish, on-the-go women.

OKAY FOR COOL DAYS

OKA B. offers a variety of classic and contemporary shoes for women and men. Favorites from the women's line include Madison and Mini-Mule. The updated line also features accents like metallic finishes and animal prints. The men's line includes The Men's Thong, an updated version of the classic style; and The Men's Sport, perfect for those with an active lifestyle. All OKA B. shoes are manufactured in Buford, Georgia. OKA B. is exclusively distributed by Stores Specialists Inc.

Panasonic ideas for life



Panasonic
Digital Photography Contest

RULES AND MECHANICS:
1. **Eligibility.** All photographers ages 18 and above are eligible. Only one entry per photographer is allowed.

2. **Camera Brand.** Any type or brands of cameras are allowed to be used for the contest.

3. **Submission of Entries:**
   a. Entries should be submitted in unmounted printed sample (size).
   b. Digital files: RGB (not CMYK), JPG format with a maximum width of 1024 pixels and a maximum height of 768 pixels (72 dpi) . Digital files will be projected for the judges.
   c. Entries that are unmounted should be in flat packages or mailing tubes. Digital files must be in CD format.
   d. Strictly no Photoshop (or any other software) manipulation for the submitted entries.
   e. Each entry should have a one-sentence explanation for their captured images along with the appropriate title.
   f. Deadline for submission of entries will be on September 30, 2007 at 5:00 p.m. adddressed to Full Circle Communications, Inc. at the 15th Floor, Belvedere Tower, San Miguel Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City.
4. **Criteria for Judging:**
   a. Creativity - 30% The amount of imagination, artistic merit, originality and expressiveness of the photo.
   b. Relevance to theme - 25% How well does the entry achieve its client's mission. How does it exactly convey the message of the contest ?
   c. Quality of Presentation - 20% The amount of style, skill and craft that was put into the entry.
   d. Visual Impact - 25% How well does the entry communicate ?
5. **Prizes :** (Participants can only win once)
   Major Prizes : 1st Prize : Php 50,000 + a Panasonic Camera
   2nd Prize : Php 30,000 + a Panasonic Camera
   3rd Prize : Php 15,000 + a Panasonic Camera
   Finalists : Panasonic Certificates and Gift Bags.

6. **Contest Promo.** School tours will be conducted to promote " The Art of Life by Panasonic " photography contest.
7. **Decision.** Judges' decision is final.
8. **Disqualification.** Employees of Panasonic Philippines, its advertising and public relations agencies, including their relatives up to second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining the contest.
9. **Announcement of Winners.** Winning entries shall be announced on October 15, 2007.

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LUMIX

Some of the county's most prominent professional photographers attend Panasonic's photo contest launch. In photo are Wig Tysmans, George Tapan, Mandy Navasero and Raffy Paredes (representing Jim Paredes)together with Panasonic Executives Rene Almeda, Hiroyuki Iwaki and Ellen Suarez.

Deadline for Panasonic's *"The Art of Life"* photo contest extended!

Panasonic, one of the country's premier brands in the appliance and electronics industry, extends its target for the "The Art of Life by Panasonic" photo contest up to October 05, 2007, providing more chances for amateur and professional photographers to showcase their photography repertoire.

Panasonic hopes to highlight photographic excellence that is distinctly Pinoy as the creative flair of many Filipinos behind the lens will be put to the test.

Explore and tinker on motion, colors and angles vis-à-vis life's greatest wonders like travel, music, fashion, sports, careers, family-oriented concepts and other daily occurrences in the urban and rural settings, highlighting the "art of life" present in both the traditional and modern ways of living.

After "The Art of Life by Panasonic" finalists are chosen, they will continue their artistic quest through a depiction of "Panasonic in the life of the consumers" by going to the nearest Panasonic dealers and portray Panasonic's contribution to the Filipino way of life.

As the art in innovation is set in focus, Panasonic takes another milestone of modern technology for the society's continuous development.

Only one entry per photographer is allowed. Any type or brand of camera can be used in the contest. Each entry should be both in an unmounted printed sample sizes placed in flat packages or mailing tubes and in digital files in CD format. Place your name, address and contact numbers on the back of the envelope for your submitted entries.

Entries will be judged according to creativity, relevance to theme, quality of presentation and visual impact. First prize winner will receive P50,000, second prize winner P30,000 and the third prize winner P15,000. The top three winners will also receive their own Panasonic camera each.

Interested individuals may send their entries to Full Circle Communications at 15/F Belvedere Tower, San Miguel Ave. Ortigas Center, Pasig City. Tel. Nos. 637-1118/637-1116

NEW
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’70s glamour, medieval re

GRAPHIC and geometric prints plus dress with blouson sleeves

MEDIEVAL EMBELLISHMENT MEETS retro-1970s glamour and military decoration mixes with traditional plaids and checks in the latest collection from Dorothy Perkins, as modeled by Heather Marks.

Graphic and geometric prints update dresses while blouson sleeves add character to eye-watching blouses. Prints are blurred and painterly, as colors and patterns merge into one on tunics.

For a relaxed effect, try denim in primary colors teamed with a T-shirt dress or the must-have playsuit. Jeans are high-waisted and defining, while skirts with braces look casual and laid-back.

As the season progresses, styles are updated with hardware trims. Buckles and ornate fastenings are inspired by an eclectic mix of armory and naval uniforms. Heraldic motif jersey pieces add a contemporary feel to stylish separates, such as the belted button-through military jacket.

For those cold days, wrap up in chunky knits layered under coats. Knitted dresses are wardrobe must-haves and range from dressed-up glitter-flecked styles to stylish belted grey options and the looser cable-knit jumper dresses in cream.

Duffel bomber jackets come in tartan checks while belted and cropped metallic leather jackets with fluted sleeves create sharp silhouettes. The belted wool coat in ochre makes a striking impact worn with long black leather gloves.

Luxe fabrics add texture with velvets, jersey and lurex knits. Roman and monastic-inspired necklines with metallic studs and jeweled embellishment add theatrical detail to voluminous shapes. The predominantly dark palette is lifted by dazzling jewel tones of jade and amethyst.

The party season arrives early with border print dresses, slinky cowl necks and sequin shimmer T-shirt dresses. Choose from the purple paisley print tunic, the black satin dress with graphic print trim or the sexier black jersey halter-neck with jumbo jewels around the neckline.

Robinsons Specialty Stores Inc. is the exclusive franchisee of Dorothy Perkins, Topman, Topshop, Warehouse and Wallis in the Philippines.

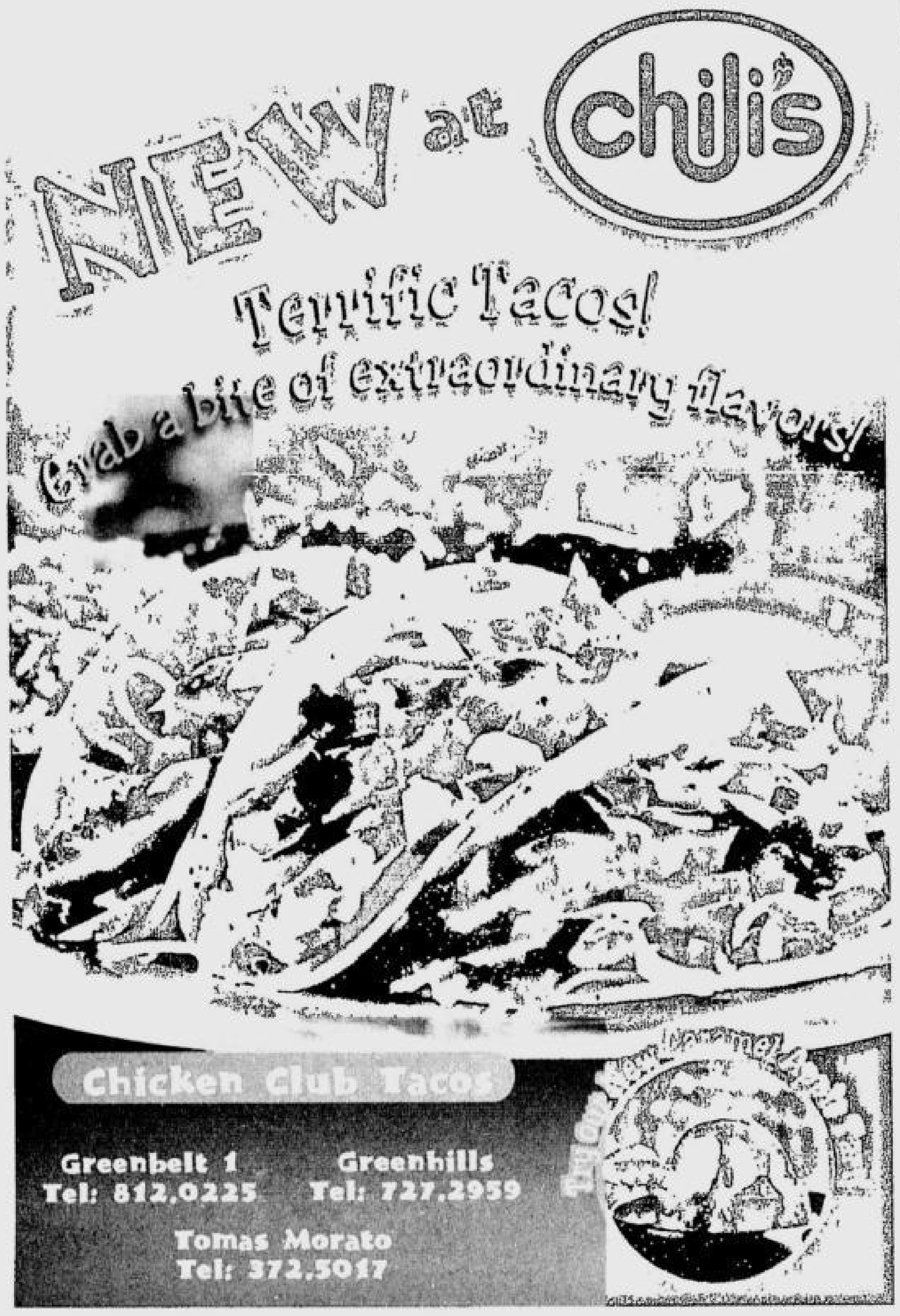
BELTED wool coat in ochre worn with long black leather gloves

PUFF SLEEV

RELAXED denim paired with plaid jacket

MILITARY-INSPIRED belted wool jacket

SHIMMERY
ess with



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FOREVER Blue Eagles now pro cagers Larry Fonacier, Wesley Gonzales and Enrico Villanueva pose with a Blue Eagle fan.

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Scoring with the Blue Eagles

AS THE ULTIMATE BRAND in sports attire and apparel, Adidas once again defines what's impossible to achieve. Keeping up the hype of the UAAP season, Ateneo Blue Eagles and all college basketball fans alike can now don their true blue school spirit through the newest Adidas apparel.

Having the recent launch a day before the much-awaited do-or-die match between ADMU and UST, the newest Adidas apparel was unveiled in the presence of the Blue Eagle players themselves. Former Blue Eagles Wesley Gonzales, Enrico Villanueva, and Larry Fonacier attended the launch and signed autographs, while ADMU Adidas items were also sold to Ateneo alumni.

Adidas Philippines is on its fourth year of an unprecedented partnership with Ateneo de Manila where the global athletic wear company outfits all the schools' varsity teams from grade-school to collegiate squads. And to solidify that partnership, Adidas managing director Joey Singian proudly says, "We decided to offer co-branded Adidas-Ateneo licensed apparel, similar to our licensed collegiate programs with top universities and colleges in the US such as UCLA, Boston College, Kansas, Indiana, Notre Dame, etc., elevating the way we look at our partnership with Ateneo."

From the start of the sponsorship, there has been a demand for Adidas products that Ateneans see the players wearing but haven't been able to find anywhere else. "Knock-offs have been in proliferation but we wanted to give Ateneans a sense of pride in wearing an apparel line with top-notch quality from a multinational organization," adds Singian. "We are deeply rooted in sports and share the same passion and enthusiasm Ateneans have for their athletic teams."

Current Blue Eagles team captain Chris Tiu, junior guard Jai Reyes, and senior swingman Ken Barracoso are endorsers of the brand, along with former players Wesley Gonzales, Larry, Fonacier, JC Intal, Doug Kramer and Villanueva, who are now professional basketball players in the Philippine Basketball Association (PBA).

For the 2007 season, a fan-wear collection consisting of jackets, polo shirts, graphic tees, and a few accessories will be available through the Ateneo A-Shop and Adidas concept stores located in Rockwell, Glorietta, Megamall, TriNoma and Gateway. Prices range from P495 for kids' tees to P1,995 for adults' jackets.

ATENEO de Manila University merchandise, now carried by Adidas

FORMER Blue Eagle varsity and now PBA player Wesley Gonzales signs an ADMU merchandise cap for a fan.

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Smokin' hot party

Perfect Balance

Christine Jacob Sandejas tells us why achieving perfect balance is so important, in cooking as well as in life.

Christine Jacob Sandejas may have a lot on her plate these days, but she certainly knows how to keep things properly balanced. A devoted wife and mother, accomplished athlete, credible cook, and popular TV personality, Christine is the epitome of a confident, accomplished and balanced woman.

"Achieving perfect balance is very important, especially when you have to juggle the demands of your work, family and personal life all at the same time. I like to compare it to cooking, where you need to have the perfect balance of flavors to get a truly appetizing dish," says Christine.

A self-confessed loyal user of AJINOMOTO GINISA FLAVOR MIX, Christine reveals that she uses it in her everyday cooking. "It takes the guesswork out of cooking. Aji-Ginisa is the only complete seasoning mix with the perfect balance of garlic, onion and meat which gives that distinct 'gisa flavor' that is so ingrained in Filipino cooking"

It's no wonder then that Aji-Ginisa has chosen Christine as its official endorser. She is now the face that brings Aji-Ginisa to life, the Philippines' No. 1 complete seasoning mix for the last 16 years.

Lastly, Christine shares, "I only endorse products that I actually use, and Aji-Ginisa certainly fulfills that requirement! I consider it an honor to represent a product that empowers Filipino homemakers on a daily basis by ensuring that their families are eating delicious dishes with perfectly balanced flavor".

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by **Alex Van Hagen** using **Kodak** EasyShare system

WHEN IT COMES TO ROLLING out the red carpet, Marlboro does it with true flavor and style, dahlings. Thus, our town's latest cool spot by the bay, 1 Esplanade, played host to Marlboro's M Party.

The event pulled out all stops—even featuring dancers performing in midair. There were endless flows of booze and hard-hitting awesome mixes by the internationally acclaimed DJ duo, **Deep Dish.**

Only red-hot, hardcore party goers, who were the chosen few, came to this *tres* exclusive by-invitation-only event. They settled down with cool cocktails and yummy hors d'oeuvres.

But the whole thing was awesome and adrenaline-pumping, *palanggas.* We could expect only the unexpected.

Local master of mixes, DJ **Kevin Ruiz,** got us going with his beats, while Ibiza's Café Mambo resident **Pete Gooding** prepared some sunset sessions, which had many of us partying down in smooth M-style, dahlings.

Chris Nelson, hotshot managing director of Philip Morris Philippines Manufacturing Inc., said, "The Marlboro spirit is all about vigor and dynamism and this is what the M Party series brings. We want it to become the rage, the party series that people will follow because it's the 'in' thing to be at." Amen, dahlings.

That hot night, Marlboro, delivered the goods, *palanggas,* with such style.

Sparkling evening

Even before *moi* breezed in—take note, *palanggas,* fashionably on time—I could already feel that it was going to be a night sparkling with beauty and glamour.

It was the night when Bulgari unveiled the new, chic 2007 Parentesi collection, at Greenbelt 4, Ayala Center, Makati.

The invitees couldn't get enough of the exclusive preview of dazzling jewelry, which are now available in *Manille, palanggas.*

Some of the most eye-catching models breezed around wearing the awesome new pieces. The show was choreographed by **Jackie Aquino.** The models' hair was done by Essensuals Toni & Guy.

The hallway was lined with tables of yummy cocktails from The Peninsula Manila—from smoked duck breast on toasted brioche with confit shallots to Cajun salmon brochette. Topping it off were the calorific desserts, like Peninsula ice cream pralines; pistachio macaroons and plus, plus, *palanggas.*

Moët Hennessy through **Olga Azarcon** provided the super chilled Moët & Chandon champagne and Belvedere vodka. Future Trades' **Eliza Real** brought in Hardys Shiraz and Chardonnay wines.

"The new classic designer 2007 Parentesi collection is structured to give each piece a bold, modern look," said Bulgari's main man **Mario Katigbak,** no less.

Check out Bulgari boutiques for your holiday season shopping, *palanggas,* at the 6750 Shopping Arcade (tel. 8933189) and Greenbelt 4, Ayala Center, Makati (7285061).

Metro hiM anniversary

The Rockwell Tent was brimming with tons of invitees who, despite the pouring rain, dashed over to witness the "True Gentlemen revealed as Platinum Men of Metro hiM," dahlings.

The occasion marked Metro hiM's third anniversary. The night honored eight gentlemen who know the importance of culture, history, and the environment and value the mind and body.

The event was co-presented by Globe Platinum.

Metro hiM's eight Platinum Men consisted of Sen. **Chiz Escudero,** multi-awarded actor **Piolo Pascual,** director **Laurenti Dyogi, Victor Consunji,** who embodies the well-rounded and refined gentleman, Odyssey Music and Video president **Jay Fonacier, Milo Naval,** Cebuana Lhuillier CEO **Jean Henri Lhuillier,** and microbiologist **Windell Rivera,** who developed a new and accurate tool for diagnosing gastrointestinal disease, an instrument that has greatly contributed to improved public health.

We were then ushered into the photo gallery section of the Rockwell Tent, where we sipped our cocktail drinks while we checked the photos of the eight men of the hour, and the beauty of La Mesa Nature Park and La Mesa Watershed.

Adorable **Bianca Valerio** hosted the affair beautifully, as Metro hiM's brilliant, young editor in chief, **Carlo Tadiar** and ABS-CBN publishing head **Ernie Lopez** explained the importance of La Mesa Nature Park and La Mesa Watershed, and how Bantay Bata had helped conserve these resources, *palanggas.*

Then, it was raining men, *palanggas,* with the fast-paced men's fashion show. It had the invitees applauding today's awesome cool brands such as Daniel Hechter, Folded & Hung, Memo, Soda Man, Paul Smith, Ben Sherman, Levi's and Dockers San Francisco, *natch.*

DIVINE Lee and Adriano Cartuliares

PAM Joaquin and Robin Huang

TIM Lim and Darlene Chan

CHRISTINA Palermo and Mark Chester Ang

DJ Kevin
Habayeb

PRIME Dizon, Pinky Amador and Samuel Lawson

DJ Pete Gooding, all the way from the party island of Ibiza

MIKKI Cuenca, Nin

TATLER publisher Irene Francisco with Bulgari's Mario Katigbak and Möet Hennessy's Olga Azarcon

RUBY Gan

MATTHIAS and Margaret Al-Amir Gatbonton

BABY Cruz of Frank Provost

PETER Jentes with model Bianca Valerio and ace photographer Alex Van Hagen

EVIE Costa with Mellie Ablaza and Helen Ong

GIORDANO president and GM Larry Lim with my fave traffic-stopper Tessa Prieto Valdes, Giordano fashion plate VP Zita Lim, and Elizabeth and Jesus Fernando

COCA Cola Tigers' Joseph Yeo with girlfriend Angela Medalla

UST Tigers' Japs Cuan with girlfriend, pretty as a picture Leslie

AJ DEE with Pinoy Dream Academy's Gemma Fitzgerald

CARLO Tadiar with Cynthia Mangahas and Ferdinand dela Cruz

LEAH Puyat and Bibai Gaisano with La Copa's Regine Sambalido and Melanie Go

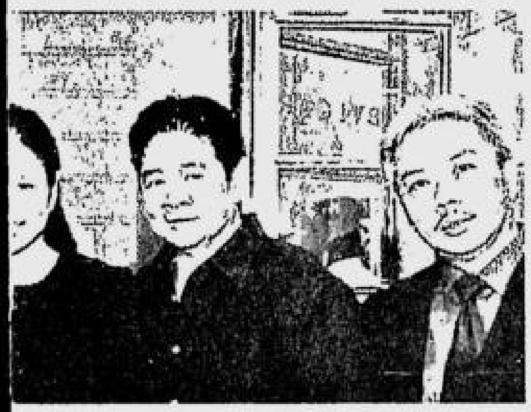
METRO Society's Ipe Cruz and editor in chief Raul Manzano with Rustan's Malou Francisco (center)

PLATINUM Man Dr. Windell Rivera

uiz, Marlboro's Angela de Vera and Elian

a Tanchanco, TJ Romasanta and Sandra Lacson

RUPERT Jacinto with Nonie Basilio, Lulu Castañeda and cardiologist Dr. Randy Francisco


y with Steph Chong, Arthur Young and Jon

NYMPHA Valencia and Dinky Laperal

PEPPER Teehankee and Abba Napa

Japs Cuan and Giordano

Moi remembers that whenever I was in Hong Kong, among the must-stop and buy-in-shop I'd go to was Giordano.

Well, no need to go to HK now, *palanggas*, as this global retail brand took its latest designs to the catwalk via the awesome and grand World Without Strangers Fashion Show at the TriNoma Mall.

The lead star of the show was the Denim Fall Collection, with a total of 140 pieces, that included the brand's trendy line of classic and contemporary clothing items and accessories highlighting Giordano's signature Denim Jeans.

The show was superbly staged by Runway Productions' director **Audie Espino** and Giordano operations manager **Joyce Sia**.

The event was packed, dahlings, with trendsetters, fashion critics, and celebrities, all applauding every piece that was shown from this latest collection, *palanggas*.

Easily the most applauded of the models was **Japs Cuan** of the University of Santo Tomas Growling Tigers.

Easy, casual and trendy. Hey, that's Giordano, *di bala*!

Kumpletuhin ang sarap ng buhay!
AJINOMOTO
GINISA
FLAVOR MIX
Christine Jacob-Sandejas
Mother, Athlete, TV personality
AJINOMOTO
GINISA
FLAVOR MIX
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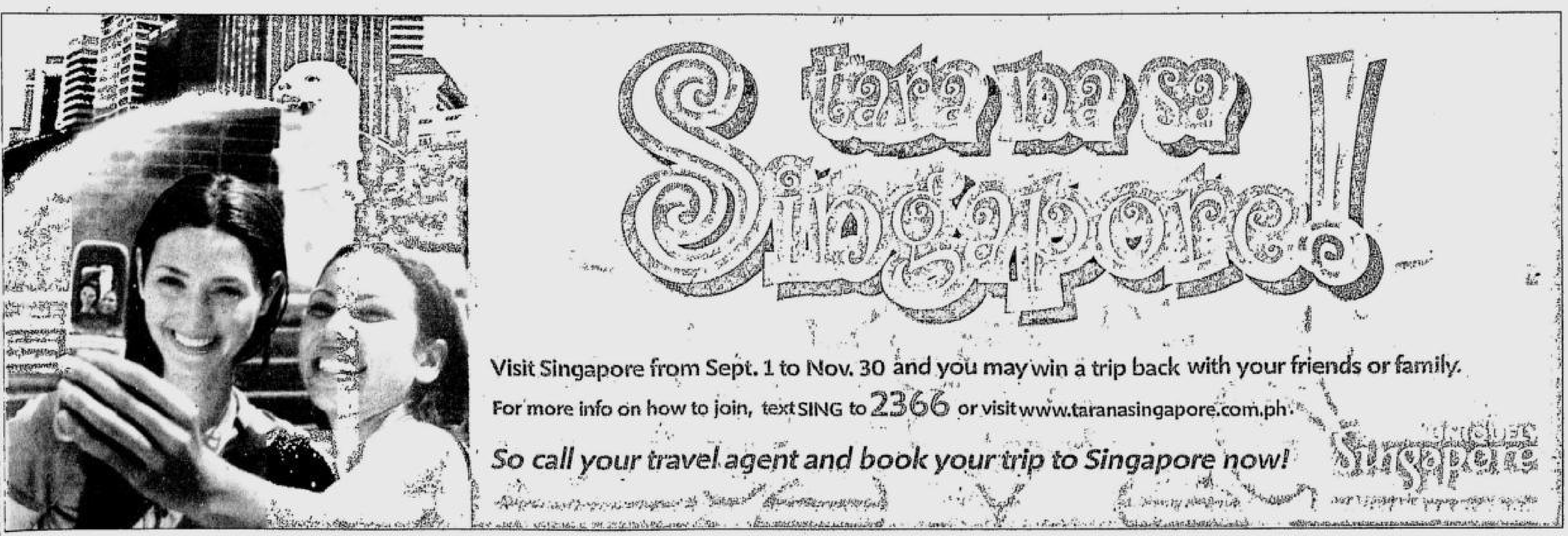
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GOINGS ON

Design series debuts

DISCOVERY TRAVEL & LIVING LAUNCHES an interior design show, "The Wow Factor," 10-11 p.m., Sept. 28. To be aired every Friday thereafter, with replays at 4 p.m. the following day, it will feature award-winning designer and presenter Tara Bernerd. In each episode, Bernerd will listen to client's ideas and use them as a springboard to come up with designs working with a budget clearly indicated.

HOME FAIR. Sta. Lucia East Department Store and Home Gallery is holding its annual Home Fair until Sept. 30. Shop within the promo period and get big discounts on home furnishing, appliances and home decor. SLEDS and Home Gallery will give away waste baskets for the first 500 shoppers with a minimum P1,000 single purchase of any home product during the promo.

HOME/TECHNO FAIR. Festival Supermall Alabang presents the Home, Techno and Digital Fair until Sept. 30 at 2/L, Carousel Court. Get zero-percent interest when you use your Citibank Visa and MasterCard. Mall hours are 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Call 8503514 or visit www.festivalsupermall.com.

DESIGN LAB 07 FINALISTS. Electrolux has announced the eight finalists for this year's global Design Lab competition with eco-design as theme. This is the fifth year of the annual global competition. Hundreds of design students from around the world submitted ideas for eco-friendly and sustainable household appliances and solutions for 2020. The finalists are: Return Po, plastic decomposer by Juan Ying-Hao, Cranbrook Academy of Art, United States; Fog Shower water-saving shower by João Diego Schimansky, Pontificia Universidade Católica do Paraná, Brazil; Pebble: solar food cooker by Laura Pandelle, École Boulle, France; e-Wash: natural detergent washing machine by Levente Szabó, Moholy-Nagy University of Art & Design, Hungary; Pure: dual kitchen sink and detergent-free compact dishwasher by Tatjana Voronova, Hochschule für Gestaltung Schwäbisch Gmünd, Germany; NatureWind: eco-solar air cleaner by Bae Won-Ho, Dong-A University, South Korea; Circompo: automatic food composter by Thanat Tengamnuay, King Mongkut's University of Technology Thonburi, Thailand; and Go Fresh: energy-saving fridge with individual, honeycomb-shaped compartments by He Cheng Fei, Jiangnan University, China. Winner, to be announced Nov. 28, gets 5,000 euro and a six-month internship at an Electrolux global design center.

COMPETITION. Philtrade Exhibits with select members of the Fashion Designers Association of the Philippines present "Black and White Couture Competition," Oct. 5 at the SM Mega Trade Hall 3, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong. Call 8250804, 8253482 or 09208766505.

EXAM. The Japanese Language Proficiency Test is set on Dec. 2., 9 a.m., at three venues—De La Salle University, Philippine Nikkei Jin Kai, Angliongto Avenue, Lanang. Call 8116155 to 58, 082-2352971, 032-3437662.

SEMINAR. Philtrade Exhibits in cooperation with the Philippine Mortuary Association present a seminar on Mortuary Management, Oct. 5-6 at the Mega Trade Hall 3, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong. Call 8250804, 8253482 or 09208766505.

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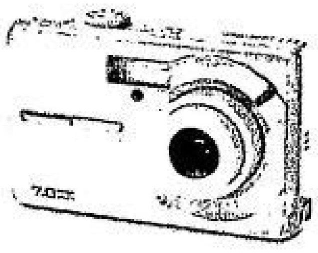

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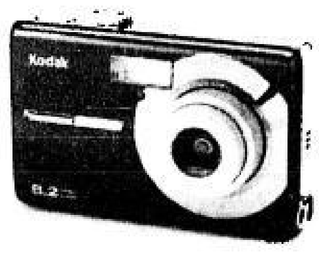

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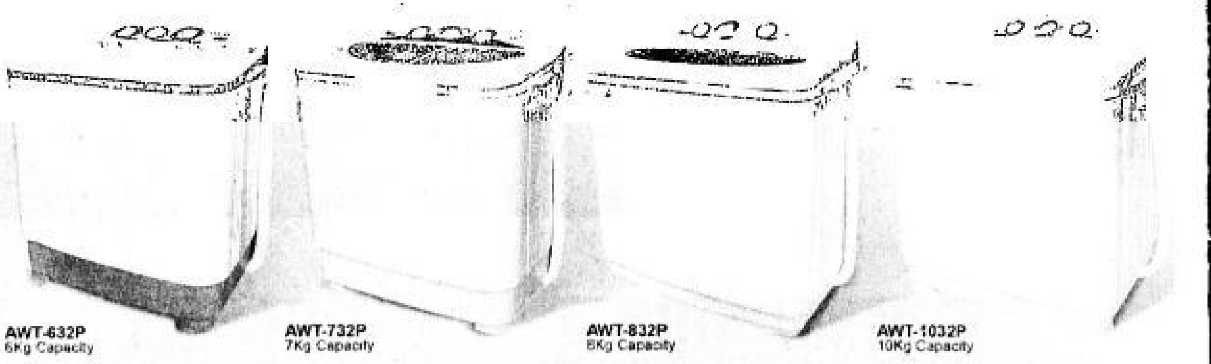

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7Kg Capacity
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BEAUTY LIFESTYLE

IN THIS ISSUE
Visits to ayurvedic resorts in India /I2

European beauty chain in Manila

MARIONNAUD IS NOW IN the Philippines, supplying local beauty devotees with cult brands and modern classics. Find the best makeup, fragrance, skincare, and bath and body lines at Marionnaud. Pamper yourself or your loved ones with special beauty treatments and great gifts as Marionnaud turns one.

Here are some brands available exclusively at Marionnaud:

- Roget & Gallet, traditional French perfumers who create classic fragrances still popular with the modern market;
- Lord & Berry, a Milan-based brand that focuses on eye and lip couture cosmetics;
- Lavera Naturkosmetik, a 100-percent certified vegan line featuring the purest, natural and organic ingredients;
- Caudalie Paris Skincare, famous for using grape-seed extracts that are great for preventing skin aging.

Marionnaud also offers a fantastic loyalty-card program that includes exclusive beauty benefits for devoted customers.

For questions or comments, contact 5560422.

LORD & BERRY™ Ultimate Gloss
LORD & BERRY™ Silk Kajal Kohl-Liner
LORD & BERRY™ Silk Kajal Kohl-Liner
LORD & BERRY™ Conceal-It Pencil
LORD & BERRY™ Conceal-It Pencil
LORD & BERRY Conceal-It Cream
LORD & BERRY Conceal-It Cream

LORD & Berry beauty collection

Chic cosmetics

IMAGINE A LINE of streamlined and über-chic cosmetics that create looks and statements that are effortlessly stylish and virtually fool-proof. Introducing Lord & Berry, "Fashion Designers for Lip and Eye." Finally, here is a makeup line that concentrates on two of the most important features—eyes and lips—and gives you an entire range of products that are easy to use, fashion forward, and always innovative.

Within it's Milan headquarters—the fashion capital of the world—Lord & Berry creates couture quality cosmetic collections for women all over the world. Famous for the LXB Treatment complex, Lord & Berry's products are carefully formulated with macadamia-nut oil, vitamins and water lily extract. (Macadamia-nut oil is known for its hydrating power and moisturizing properties. It penetrates the skin and replenishes natural oils lost over the course of time. Water lily flower extracts are cooling, nourishing and skin conditioning.)

Create a perfect canvas using the Conceal-It Pencil, a moist yet matte concealer good for covering up tiny spots and other flaws. For more creamy coverage, there's Conceal-It Cream, a lighter formula that blends easily. For the classic smoky eye, try the Silk Kajal Kohl-liner paired with E3 Wet and Dry Eye shadow Base in Silver Gray. Top it off with jewel-toned lips using Smudge-proof Kissproof Lipliner in Wine, then swipe on the Ultimate Gloss in Kiss.

Now you can mix and match different textures and colors for your eyes and lips. With Lord & Berry, beauty possibilities are endless.

Tradition and timelessness

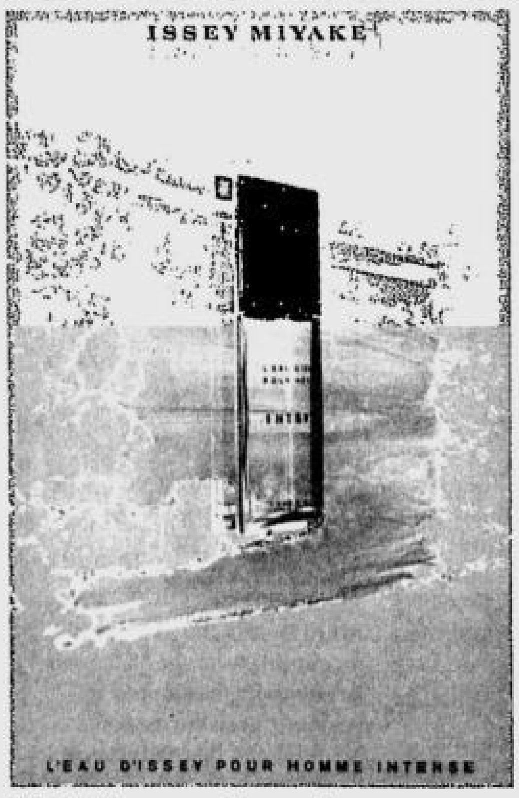
FRENCH PERFUMER ROGET & Gallet uses time-honored traditions in creating special scents that remain perennial favorites for all ages.

In 1806, a young Frenchman named Jean-Marie Farina set up shop on the Rue Saint-Honoré in Paris where he sold a fresh and fruity scent known as Eau de Cologne. The tonic preparation, already famous throughout Europe, became Emperor Napoleon I's favorite scent. Farina became the official supplier of the Imperial Eau de Cologne used by Napoleon and his officers. The fragrance was decanted into a thin bottle that was easily slipped into military boots. Napoleon was said to use up to 60 bottles per month. By 1840, Farina sold his business to Léonce Collas, who then sold it to Messieurs Roget and Gallet in 1862. Today Roget & Gallet still produces the legendary Eau de Cologne.

Roget & Gallet is a brand synonymous to classic fragrances that remain as fresh and sparkling as the day they were conceived. Aside from the original iconic Eau de Cologne, there's also Eau de Gingembre (a bright ginger water paired with oriental flowers and musk); Eau de Thé Vert (a unisex fragrance for those who want harmony and well-being); Bouquet Imperial Eau de Cologne (a sun-kissed and zesty composition); Vetyver Eau de Cologne (an elegant woody scent); and Lavande Royale Eau de Cologne (a vibrant lavender fragrance). Each fragrance comes with luxuriously matched shower gels and body lotions, enriched with shea milk and natural plant extracts.

Roget & Gallet is also famous for its perfumed soaps. Created with the traditional caldron method, these finely milled soaps are made of 100-percent vegetal base, infused with a unique perfuming process that makes sure the soap is perfumed to the very end.

Roget & Gallet is exclusively available at Marionnaud Philippines.



L'EAU d'Issey pour Homme Intense

Intense fragrance promo

ISSEY MIYAKE POUR HOMME has launched a new fragrance, L'Eau d'Issey pour Homme Intense. It has a bubbling, explosive and colorful surface, with a spicy geyser at its center and sensual, textured depths. Intensely citrusy, intensely spiced, intensely woody.

This masculine black and deep silver fragrance comes with an opportunity to win a brand-new HP iPAQ512 Voice Messenger phone! This elegant phone in black and gray is a 12-key phone that allows you to take your office with you on the road. It has built-in productivity apps and office functionality. With the new HP iPAQ512, you can easily scan, read, and reply to e-mail via Microsoft Exchange, POP3 or IMAP. The phone also comes with a built-in 1.3-megapixel camera.

Every purchase of the new fragrance will earn you raffle tickets to win the new HP iPAQ512 only at Marionnaud. Promo is until Oct. 7.

WIN this new HP iPAQ512 phone.

Luffa-Jojoba
Body-Peeling
Für eine seidig-zarte Haut
Luffa-Jojoba
Body-Peeling
For a silky-soft skin
Luffa-Jojoba
Peeling pour le Corps
Pour une peau douce & soyeuse
Orange-Sanddorn
Dusch- & Badegel
Orange-Sea Buckthorn
Shower & Bath Gel
Orange-Argousier
Gel Douche & Bain
Tiaré-Lilie
Lavendel-Aloe Vera
Pfirsich-Aprikose

HUNDRED-PERCENT natural bath, body and beauty line from Germany

Citrusfrüchte
Eisenkraut-Limone
Milch und Honig
Vanille-Kokos

Go organic with Lavera

Introducing Lavera Naturkosmetic from Germany, a 100-percent natural bath, body and beauty line that uses certified organic ingredients. *Lavera* means "the truth" and the name echoes the brand's commitment to using only the purest organic ingredients. Thomas Haase, founder and owner of Lavera, suffered dermatitis since childhood but couldn't find nonirritating skin treatments for his condition. Eventually he started experimenting with natural ingredients and developed his own formulations. Years later he would open one of Germany's first natural-product stores and, in 1987, founded Lavera.

Although many brands tout "natural" qualities, few of them contain truly natural ingredients. Finally, here is a brand that stays true to its organic claims. At least 95 percent of Lavera's ingredients are grown and processed according to strict, government-controlled, organic agricultural standards, and then verified by a third-party certifying body. The brand certainly goes above and beyond current trends. Lavera products are not only made from the best ingredients and award-winning formulations, but are also innovative and cruelty-free. Over a hundred products are certified vegan (completely free of animal products). Vegetarians will be happy to know these Lavera products bear the stamp of approval of the UK Vegan Society. The trusted sunflower logo will tell you which ones are 100-percent animal and cruelty-free.

Lavera is designed for sensitive skin and skips the synthetic preservatives, emulsifiers, parabens, irritating detergents, and petroleum products. Lavera uses only the purest plant oils, herb and flower extracts which are certified organic ingredients. Check the labels on various Lavera products and you'll find an ingredient list that reads like a botanical textbook. Naturally pure ingredients are the best at supporting the skin in processes such as cell renewal, hydration, oxygenation and protection. Also, these organic formulas are suitable for people with sensitive-skin conditions, such as acne or eczema.

Some Lavera favorites:

Laveré Lifting Serum Hydro-Gel. A firming and anti-wrinkle treatment perfect for delicate skin. Balances stressed and dehydrated areas. It contains pure vitamins & plant extracts bio-hyaluronic acid, organic bamboo and organic green tea.

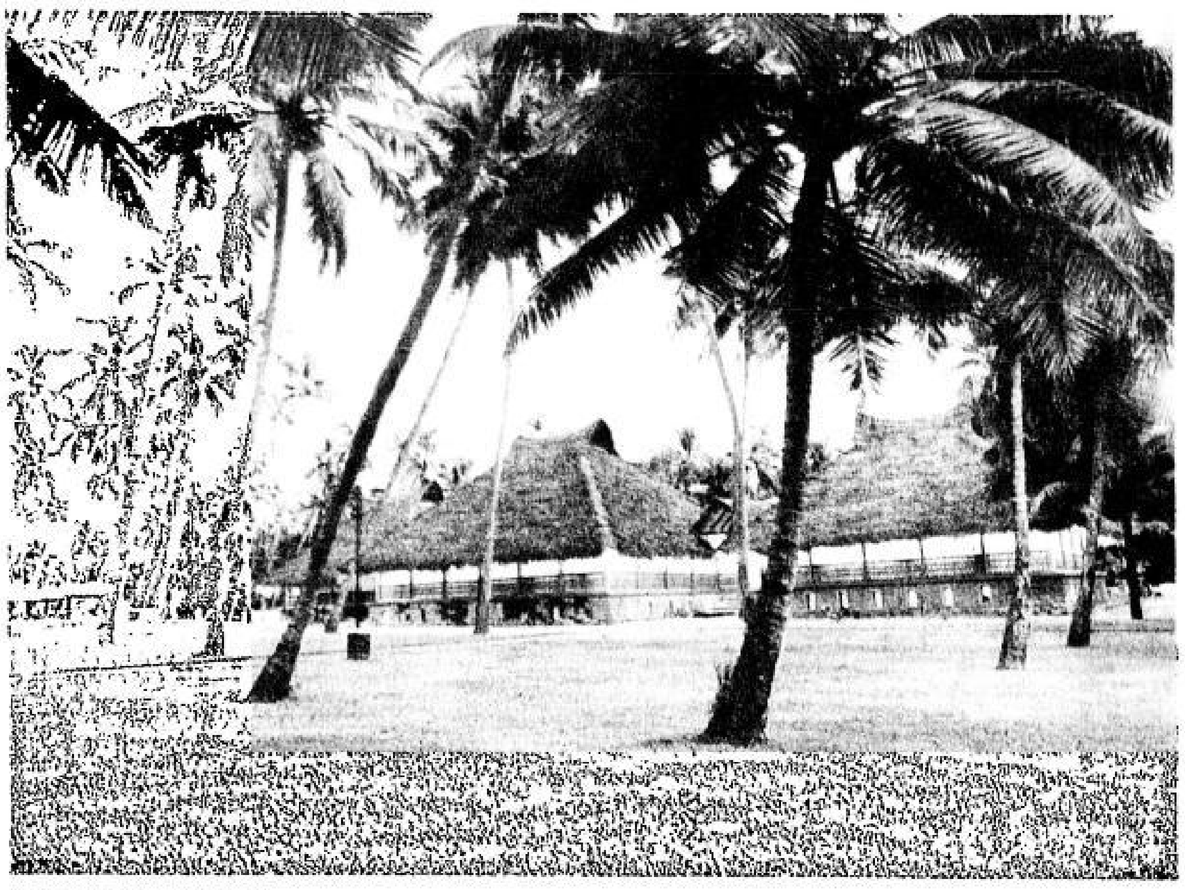
Anti-Aging Sun Screen SPF 20. Sun screen for delicate faces with shea butter for moisture, hazel and liquorice extracts to soothe redness and irritation, caffeine to boost microcirculation, and organic, cold-pressed sunflower oil for extra antioxidant protection. Never leave home without it!

Body Lotion Vervain-Lemon. For an invigorating, uplifting experience after your shower, slather on this luscious lotion. Extracts of vervain refresh skin, while lemon and lime have antiseptic and astringent properties to clarify, tone, and brighten skin.

Lip Gloss. With Vitamin E and organic jojoba for maximum moisture without the icky, sticky feeling. The shimmer is from crushed natural minerals and doubles as anti-aging sun protection.

Lavera Naturkosmetic is available exclusively at Marionnaud.

YOGA to start the morning at Marari


MARARI Beach resort

Wellness pilgrimage is the way to go today

LIFE-STYLED

Thelma Sioson San Juan

The ayurvedic resorts in Kerala, India, inject ancient science into today's cool lifestyle

MANY PEOPLE'S idea of a leisure trip today is going on a wellness pilgrimage.

In the '80s, futurists predicted that going back to nature and cultivating spirituality and well-being would be the rage in the next decades. While we believed that prediction, we didn't foresee the paradigm shift such a trend would create in today's lifestyle.

Today, spas and wellness centers are the new mecca, akin to what the shopping mall was in the '90s. They provide the lifestyle business boom everywhere.

Baby boomers—the biggest economic force worldwide—are moving heaven and earth to keep their body and mind fit. Their example is being emulated by generations X and Y.

That's why Singapore Airlines' idea of flying a media group to Kerala, India, to discover its ayurvedic resorts two weeks ago wasn't only timely, it was also right on the pulse of the market.

However, staying for seven days with nine media personalities with perhaps double that number of characters and eccentricities in them may not exactly spell well-being, but Singapore Airlines' marketing head Rita Dy managed that feat anyway. And, indeed, the trip and the company were good for one's well-being.

Kerala is in the southwestern tip of India, flanked by the Arabian Sea and the Western Ghats mountain range, with a backwater artery that's perfect for sailing—in a fully decked houseboat.

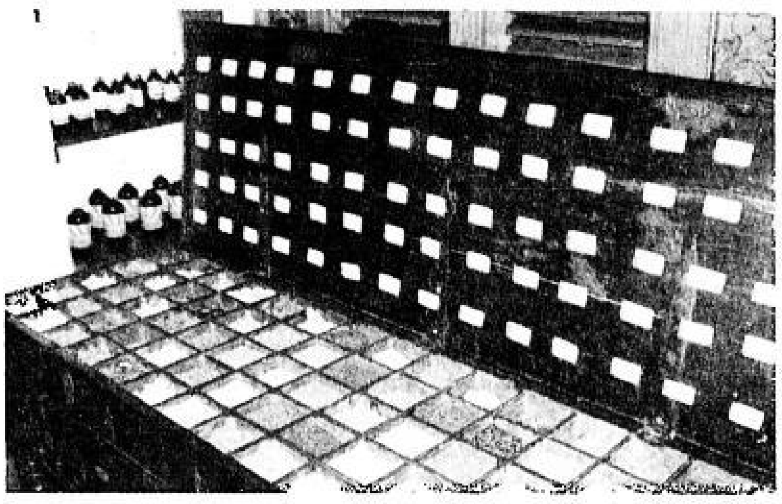
GARDEN cottages at Spice Village in Thekkady, Kerala, are made of split bamboo and thatched roofs made of eggplant grass.

Kerala is said to be India's No. 1 state, its most affluent with a strong middle class, with 100-percent literacy, and also its cleanest. It shows. The place is not congested. It's not only rustic, it's almost idyllic. You could see people deriving livelihood from the sea and land.

Kerala is India's age-old source of spices, the variety of which is enough to overwhelm you. You could smell them in the air.

Kerala was the destination of conquerors of centuries ago, led by Vasco de Gama 500 years ago. That's why the architecture of the Portuguese and the Dutch (who came later) is still beautifully evident—those stimulating ochre and melon colors diluted by the onslaught of time. And those saris on women—in vibrant saffron, fuchsia, gold, you name it, there's a color to lure the eye.

Today, Kerala, from Cochin to Thekkady, is not only a scenic gem, it is also on top of the global pursuit for wellness. Its ayurvedic resorts and hotels put an ancient science into today's cool lifestyle.


HEALING herbs used in ayurvedic treatments and rejuvenation sessions at Marari Beach, also in Kerala

It prides itself in being the center of ayurveda, the age-old Indian science that's known to a few Filipinos, especially those who are into yoga and meditation. Ayurveda (*ayu* meaning life, *veda* meaning knowledge or science) is an ancient, intricate system of health and healing indigenous to India, particularly to Kerala.

We have neither the expertise nor the space to dwell on it here, but briefly, ayurveda is practiced by physicians in India who work for a five-year Bachelor of Ayurvedic Medicine and Surgery.

These physicians believe equilibrium is the key to a person's health. Ayurveda isn't so much treatment, as the prevention of disease. The ayurvedic doctor uses herbs, leaves, bark, roots, stems of shrubs—health and healing from nature—and even spices and metals such as silver and gold. These go with strict diet and rejuvenation sessions such as oil massages.

In ayurveda, a person is believed to be made up of five elements—space, air, fire, water and earth—combined with physiological functions of *vata* (i.e. circulation, respiration), *pitta* (metabolism, digestion), *kapha* (growth). It is the imbalance among these that causes illness or even death.

At the Marari Beach Resort, the ayurvedic doctor told the diabetic member of our group that daytime sleeping or napping doesn't do her good. Daytime sleep is not good for diabetics, he told our stunned group.

We went to the nature resorts of the CGH chain, a network of hotels and resorts founded by an Indian visionary, Jose Dominic, who believed every development must be environment-friendly.

These hotels are veritable botanical gardens, bird and even wildlife sanctuaries, that recycle their water, use biogas from food wastes, use organic fertilizers on its land, and solar panels. They are a heartening showcase of eco-friendly systems.

At the Spice Village in Thekkady, Kerala, we got our first taste of ayurvedic massage. The place was unlike any spa we've seen, whether here or in Thailand or Bali. The room is so spare, there's only a flat wooden bed in the center and a stove (!) in the corner. You strip naked—as in everything goes. You're given a cheesecloth with strings to wear, like a G-string. You sit on a chair, and the masseuse pours coconut oil on your scalp, your forehead.

The massage begins on your head, because like an inverted tree, that's where your roots are. The head massage alone is enough to put you to sleep, even as you're seated upright.

You are led to that high massage bed for the oil massage. The masseuse rubs the oil on her palms so that her hands are soothingly warm when they run down your body in kneading motion, sometimes using her thumbs to apply pressure. You feel the energy seeping into you from those hands. Then she uses two heated herbal pouches to rub down your body.

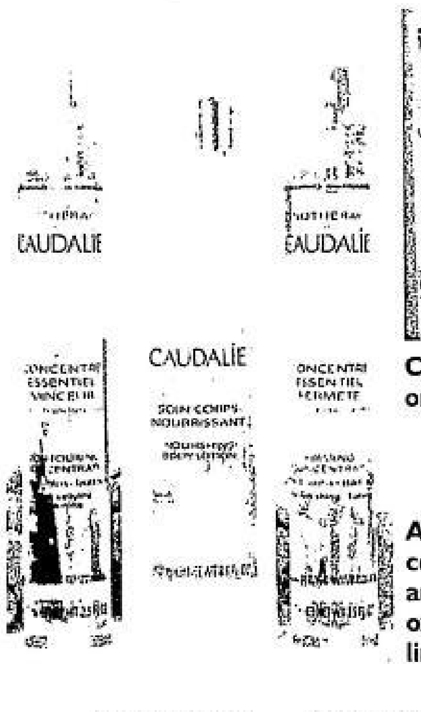
The shower is just as spartan. You sit on a monobloc chair and the masseuse pours water and herbal powder on you.

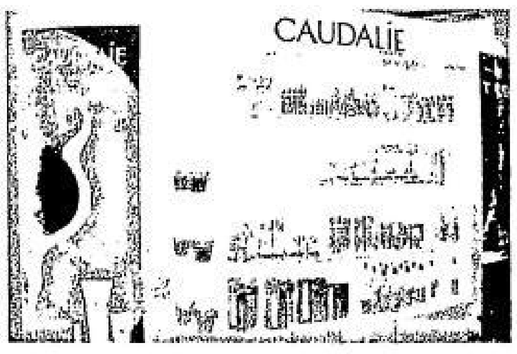
At the Coconut Lagoon, two masseuses do synchronized massage, with sesame oil. It is vigorous, those two pairs of hands incessantly rubbing and kneading your back, from shoulders to toes.

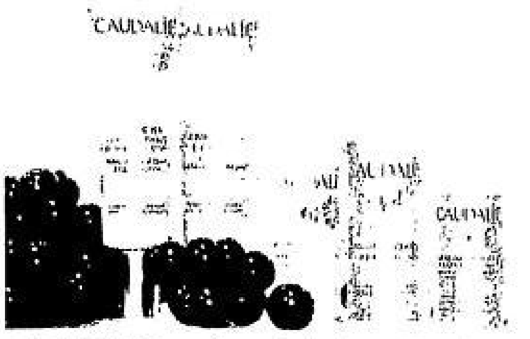
"Come back to nature and be present. Feel the energy being transmitted to you," the ayurvedic doctor at Spice Village told us.

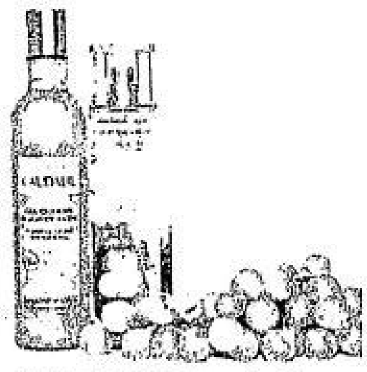
It is welcome news that Singapore Airlines is preparing reasonably priced travel packages to these Kerala resorts and hotels giving ayurvedic treatments. The menus of treatments are attractive, from slimming/stress management program to treatments for back pain and longevity.

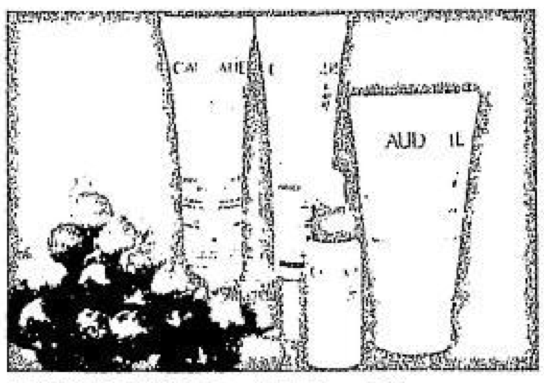
There's even "*vajeekaranam*—only for men—"ensures longer sexual pleasure and treats disorders," the Marari Beach brochure said; it's a 7-14-day program. Nobody in the group got to try that, obviously.


ANTI-cellulite and anti-oxidant line


CAUDALIE Paris Skincare uses grapes originating from the vineyards of France.


GRAPEVINE wonder to fight signs of ageing


ENERGIZING Fleur de Vigne


MOISTURIZING Caudalie Nourishing range

Beauty from the grapevine

CAUDALIE PARIS, A SKINcare line that harvests beauty benefits from grapes originating from the vineyards of Chateau Smith Haut Lafitte near Bordeaux, France is now back in Manila, and can be exclusively found at Marionnaud at SM Mall of Asia.

Caudalie's history is a marriage of earth and destined encounters. Mathilde and Bertrand Thomas, a young and handsome couple, created the Caudalie skincare line in 1995.

They were working closely with professor Vercauteren, who discovered that grape seeds were rich in antioxidant polyphenol.

Caudalie is a wine term designating the measurement unit of the duration that wine flavors remain in the mouth after tasting. One second of persistence is equal to one "caudalie"; the better the wine, the more caudalie it has.

Caudalie is really beauty on the grapevine, not only because of its key ingredients, but also because of the buzz it has generated because of celebrities who consider it among their beauty must-haves.

Madonna, for example, is said to order 12 bottles of the Beauty Elixir, Caudalie's signature star product every month. Inspired by the "elixir of youth" made famous by Queen Isabelle. of Hungary, this marvelous skincare product smoothes features, tightens pores and provides an instant burst of radiance to the complexion.

Eva Longoria loves the Vinopure Matte Finish Fluid, which regulates oil production, refines skin texture, and is ideal for combination skin in need of antioxidant protection.

Kirsten Dunst uses the oil-free satiny Vinoperfect Radiance Serum Complexion Correcting line that boosts the complexion's radiance and appearance.

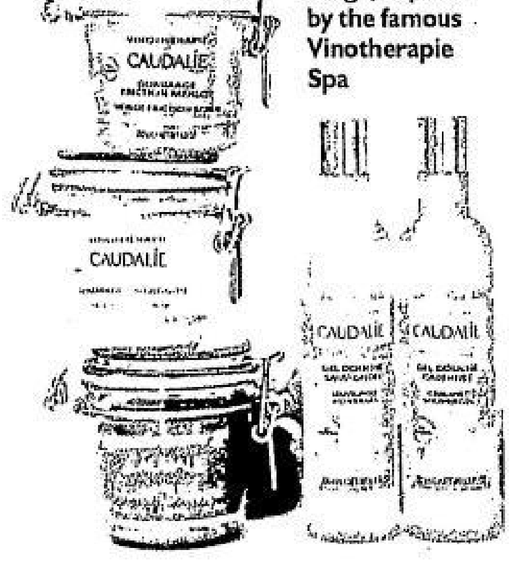
Sarah Jessica Parker likes Caudalie's Moisturizing Skin Mask that soothes and moisturizes even the driest skin.

Caudalie's product range consists of its Cleansing and Toning Line; a Lifting Line that provides exceptional firming action as it stimulates cellular renewal for younger looking skin; and the Energizing Line that preserves youthful skin. The Nourishing Line ensures comfortable, radiant and youthful skin; while the Purifying Line balances and protects combination and oily skin.

Caudalie has also produced the Vinotherapie Line, to simulate the spa experience it created in 1999 right in the comforts of your own home. This includes a range of shower gels, nourishing body lotion, French milled soap and body scrubs all inspired by the vineyards in Crushed Cabernet, Sauvignon and Merlot.

To launch the Caudalie line, Marionnaud hosted an exclusive wine-tasting session sponsored by Ralph's. Caudalie's Asia representative Diana Diep enlightened guests with its secret beauty recipe straight from the grapevine.

Marionnaud is at 2/L, Main Mall, SM Mall of Asia.


VINOTHERAPIE range,inspired by the famous Vinotherapie Spa

TREI Sales' Abby de Guzman, Travel Life Magazine's Gel Tarrayo and Bing Ramillanp

MARIONNAUD assistant marketing manager Carmen Araneta-Reyes flanked by lawyer friends Bernadette Manulid and Bernadette de Guzman

Starting with a clean slate

One should purge toxins and parasites from one's system before going on another round of anti-oxidant vitamins and supplements

MAKEOVER 911

Kinny Salas

IT'S BEEN SIX months since I ran out of vitamins and supplements for weight control, skin and hair. I have not been able to replenish because I've been busy.

Two months after my last complete supplement program, I had myself tested by NuSkin's machine to measure antioxidant levels. They tested dangerously low.

The full effect after three months?

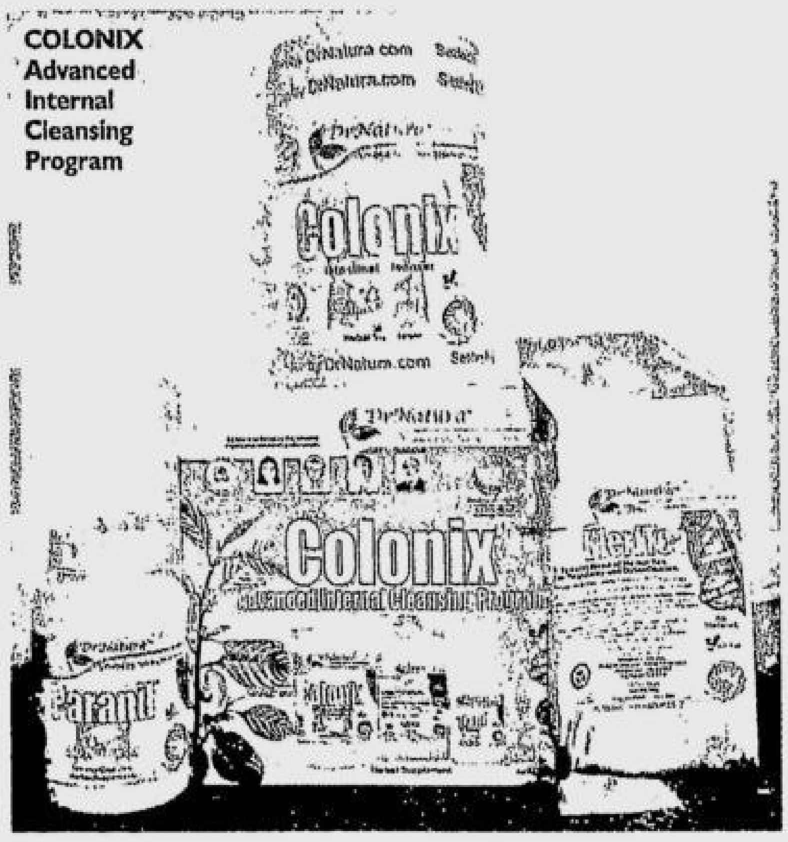
I had gained weight, my hair was greasy and started falling. I had less energy. I had bad bathroom habits, cystic acne, allergies, lower abdominal bulge (*puson*), and sagging cheeks.

I had aged five to 10 years in a few months due to free radical damage fueled by stress.

Taking the supplements now would not be a very good idea because the toxin accumulation in my body would block most of it so my absorption would not be maximized.

It was time for my internal cleansing program. Ultimate Fasting Cleanse (UFC) would be my best bet, but since I have taken to walking 12,500 to 15,000 steps a day, it would not be too smart for me not to eat anything for five days except fiber and tablets.

Some of the people I know who tried UFC cheated by eating meat and processed food. Needless to say they demanded something that would clean them up inside thoroughly but allow food intake.



COLONIX Advanced Internal Cleansing Program

The best road-tested options:

1. Colonix (P6,500 for a 30-day supply pack). Perfect for those who have never tried a fasting-cleansing program. You have two easy steps in the morning and one at night before bed. When you wake up, you take Paranil anti-parasite tablets on an empty stomach to kill off any parasites inside you that is causing the hunger pangs and absorbing all the nutrients for themselves, causing one to bloat due to toxin build-up.

After 15 minutes, take one scoop Colonix fiber with probiotics to scrub off the impacted waste that all those constipated moments have permanently lodged into your intestines and colon.

Did you know that there are people who carry around up to 30 pounds extra of hardened waste that's why they stay overweight even when they don't eat much?

At night, seep the Kleri Tea in a mug of hot water, but make sure you are home because it can make you very sleepy so it's dangerous to drive.

The catch: Some may experience tummy cramps when they wake up, but they will become fine for the rest of that day.

Also some first-timers must do the program for 60 to 90 days to be sure everything is cleaned out. It took decades to pile all the toxins up so don't expect them to clear up after a month—unless you are willing to do the five-day UFC program without food.

In addition, drink lots of water since lack of water may cause fiber to harden and clog up your stomach.

Parasites and their eggs do come out of you—some see them as early as day four while for others it takes two weeks or more to drive them out. It may be scary but would you rather keep parasites inside you breeding?

Colonix is available at Philosophy by Mikaela Salon. Call 8921574 for inquiries.

High-fiber

2. The H.O.P.E. system stands for H-igh fiber, O-mega 3 oils, P-robiotics, and E-nzymes.

A healthy digestive system is the key to weight control and keeping yourself healthy, happy and functional. So Hope is my maintenance plan after Colonix or UFC.

HOPE (High fiber Omega 3 oils Probiotics and Enzymes)

High fiber promotes bowel regularity, checks cholesterol and excess sugar, and eliminates liver and intestinal toxins.

Omega 3 oils contain Lipase, an enzyme that digests fats so less is absorbed by our body. Probiotics Flora More are good bacteria that keep bad bacteria under control. Those who are low in Probiotics are prone to yeast infection that causes sugar cravings and stubborn excess weight, diarrhea, constipation, gas, bloating, lactose intolerance, weight gain at the slightest carbohydrate intake, and low immune system (so you're always sick or have colds and are prone to rashes and acne breakouts).

We need at least five billion good bacteria daily. For example, if you have an enzyme shortage, you will experience gas, bloating, heartburn and fatigue after eating.

Digest More contains a variety of enzymes so you can efficiently digest everything; starch, protein, dairy, fats, vegetables and sugar.

The treatment helped me digest all that excess fat and protein when I went on a high-protein, low-carbohydrate diet.

Digest More is available at Health Express. E-mail customerservice@healthexpressph.com or call 8927978.

Results: 1. Expect to lose up to 20 pounds the first month if you are very overweight due to chronic constipation. 2. Clearer skin 3. Fresh breath 4. No cravings for sweets and fast food 5. Flatter stomach and no PMS 6. Less hair fall 7. Regular bowel movement and reduction in appetite

When your system is cleared up and healthy, it will be more responsive to skin treatments and vitamin/supplements absorption will be maximized.

Launch party redefines skin perfection

AT THE RECENT launch party of Olay White Radiance, 400 of the metro's young style mavens, beauty and fashion experts gathered for a night of girl talk on "my kind of perfect."

Olay once again created a breakthrough product that promises women perfect-looking fairness.

But what exactly did they mean by perfect-looking fairness? Olay White Radiance's brand manager Michelle Villarroel explained, "Instead of just whitening, Olay White Radiance goes beyond that and offers to bring out the natural radiance of your skin. The truth is the perfect fairness for you may not be the same for others because we were all born with different skin. So it's about achieving fairness that's perfect for you by addressing any or all of the obstacles that are a hindrance for you."

With an improved formulation that has 10 times more whitening Niacinamide, 2.5 times more Vitamin E antioxidant and SPF 24 sun protection, it protects women from UV damage while correcting and enhancing their skin tone so they get fairness that's just right for them.

The party unveiled Olay's White Radiance ambassadors: "it" girl Isabelle Diaz-Daza, photographer Monica Barretto and makeup artist Denise Go. Also present was skincare consultant Dr. Jade Tiongco, who gave tips on getting perfect-looking fair skin. The event also launched the Olay Radiance Circle, an exclusive group comprised of 100 of the metro's young style mavens.

OLAY White Radiance

MEMBERS of the Olay White Radiance Circle

NEW faces of Olay White Radiance, from left: Isabelle Diaz-Daza, Denise Go, Monica Barretto and Dr. Jade Lim-Tiongco

"We chose these women because not only are they experts who are fulfilling their vision of perfect, in their own way, each of them are committed to helping women around them become more beautiful and closer to each one's kind of perfect," said Villaroel.

"They tried White Radiance and loved it so much that they uploaded their stories to the blogsite and even got their friends to use it. We plan to invite more young ladies to join in time," she adds.

To cap off the evening, a necklace designed by Happy David was given to the ladies.

Hair accessories that stay put

THE GOODY WOMEN'S Stayput Collection carries high performance hair accessories with patent-pending technology that provides more holding power than traditional hair ornaments.

Bothered by stray hair, flyaways, and bangs that get in the eyes as a result of all that snipping and trimming? Applying mousse or blow-drying the hair might be an effective solution but it's not an option especially for women who are always on the run.

Goody Stayput headbands offer an easy way out with hair accessories that provide the same secure hold like hair products, minus the fuss.

A stylish accent to bobs and short styles are flat headbands and elastics designed to stay in place no matter what your activity is for the day. Another style is the Goody fabric headwrap which comes with the Fit-Clip technology that can be easily adjusted to your head size.

There's nothing more annoying than wet, sweaty hair sticking on your face after a workout or a round of badminton. Avoid unnecessary distraction with a two-layer headband or the Fitclip No-Slide headwrap designed with the Stayput technology.

Put off by short layers and bangs? Soft Touch barrettes and contour clips won't slide off, roll or fall out of your hair as you dash through all the maddening deadlines in the office. Work out your style with Activewear clips for your hair.

THE GOODY Women's Stayput Collection

Another version of these clips is the Oval Comfort Gel barrette. Textured hinges automatically clasp on and shape to your hair for the perfect hold. These hair ornaments have twice the hold of traditional barrettes—click clasp once for thick hair, and twice for thin locks.

A must-own for fashionistas and trend watchers this season are metallic headbands and knit headwraps that beautifully frame the face. These chic accessories work both with short and long hair.

For little misses who like to play dress up (like their moms and sisters), Goody has created a separate line designed to cater to young girls' fun and playful personalities. Feminine details in ponytails and barrettes like ruffles, flowers, cute insects and beads will surely have girls looking sweet and neat. Available in fun colors like pink, yellow, violet and orange, the Goody Stayput Girls Collection are offered in no-slide and braided headbands, elastics, sporty ponytailers, knit headwrap, contour combs and gel barrettes.

Goody arms you for the rainy season with a free umbrella for every P600 worth of Goody items. Offer is good until supplies last.

Goody is available in all leading department stores nationwide.

Skin care beyond whitening

GLUTA WHITE & FIRM AIMS to set a new standard for skin whitening and firming.

Derm Pharma Inc., which introduced such products as Regroe, Derm A and Skintel, has launched Gluta White & Firm.

An intensive skin whitening and firming system, Gluta White & Firm helps make the skin fairer and more contoured in a shorter time.

Gluta White & Firm's active whitening and slimming complex combines glutathione, L-carnitine, lipofirm and clair blanche.

Glutathione, one of the active components, is supposed to help turn dark pigmentation into light tones.

Clair blanche is a unique fusion of seven active ingredients that helps inhibit melanin formation.

Gluta White & Firm is designed to whiten skin in two weeks while preventing the development of freckles and age spots. A gentle sunscreen provides protection from the sun.

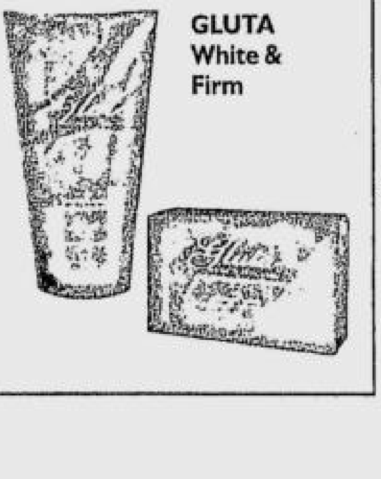
L-carnitine and lipofirm help achieve a sexier and slimmer appearance. L-carnitine is a naturally occurring substance found in most cells of the body. It assists in the processing of fat and helps elevate certain enzymes for processing sugars, starches, and other carbohydrates.

Lipofirm helps reduce adipose fat (fat found in tissue just below the skin) and has firming, slimming and draining effects.

Gluta White & Firm works within the skin and on the surface to counteract lack of resilience and tone due to loss of collagen.

The line includes Gluta White & Firm Lotion, Gluta White & Firm Soap, Gluta White & Firm Facial Wash, Gluta White & Firm Facial Cream, Gluta White & Firm Deodorant and Gluta White & Firm Pressed Powder.

Gluta White & Firm is available in all leading department and drug stores nationwide (tel. 8173303).



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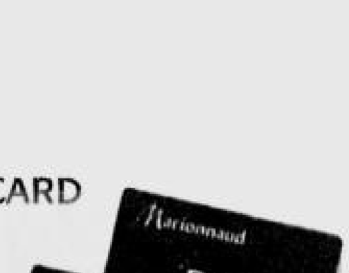

Marionnaud

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KRISTINE HERMOSA

BOOKS

The Bible is n.y favorite book. It has taught me a lot. It gave me strength, especially when Diet (Ocampo) and I broke up and I lost my drive to work. The Bible gave me back the inspiration to go back to acting. Since then, I make sure to read it whether or not I have problems. I don't always understand what the Holy Book is telling me, but I try my best to abide by it.

Marinel R. Cruz

RYAN RAMOS/ABS-CBN

Actor Juan Rodrigo is a chemist, too, and an active environment advocate

ROMY HOMILLADA

Soaps for his fans

By Cora Lucas

DON'T BE SURPRISED IF you see actor Juan Rodrigo in his front yard mixing coconut oil, sodium hydroxide and oil-soluble dye.

Few know that the telenovela regular is a chemist whose latest venture is a line of handmade organic soaps meant to be unique, personalized presents for his fans.

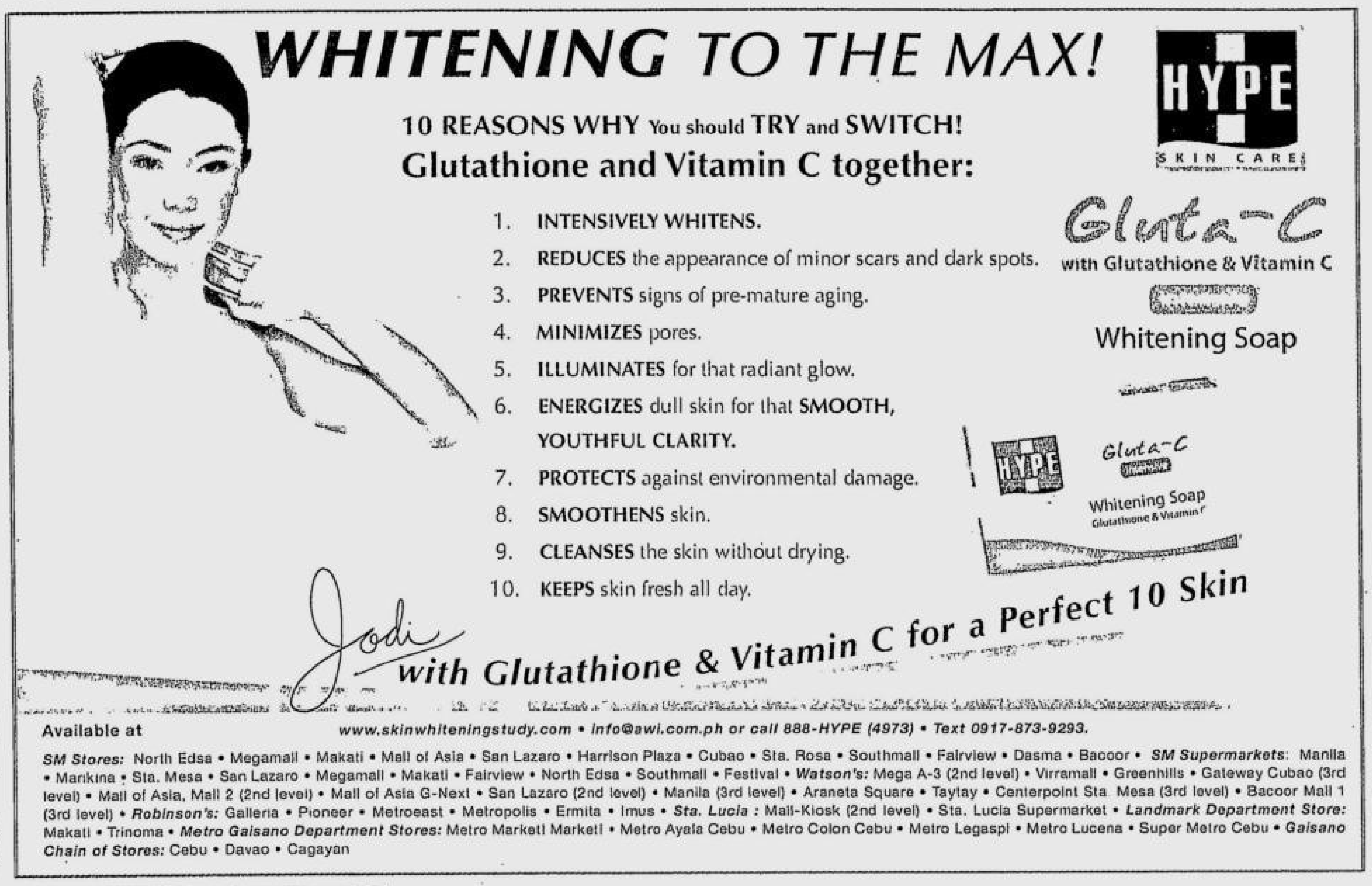
"*May mga* fans *ako na* every Christmas *at* birthday *ko, pinupuntahan ako sa bahay. Naubusan ako ng* ideas *kung ano ibibigay ko sa kanila,*" says JR, who is currently at work on the Judy Ann Santos telenovela "Ysabella," the forthcoming Kristine Reyes movie "Green Paradise," and an environment concert series with Nonoy Zuñiga and Mari Nallos. "*Naisip ko, bakit hindi sabon, para sarili kong gawa?*"

Not for sale ... yet

JR finished BS Chemistry at the Far Eastern University. He used to be a laboratory analyst for quality control at the Philippine Refining Company, now Unilever. For three years, he was part of a team that ensured the company's soap and shampoo products met the required standards.

JR swears by his Obaya soaps: skin whitening, moisturizing Papaya-Calamansi; anti-aging Carrot; anti-bacterial, anti-fungal Tea

SOAPS/J2



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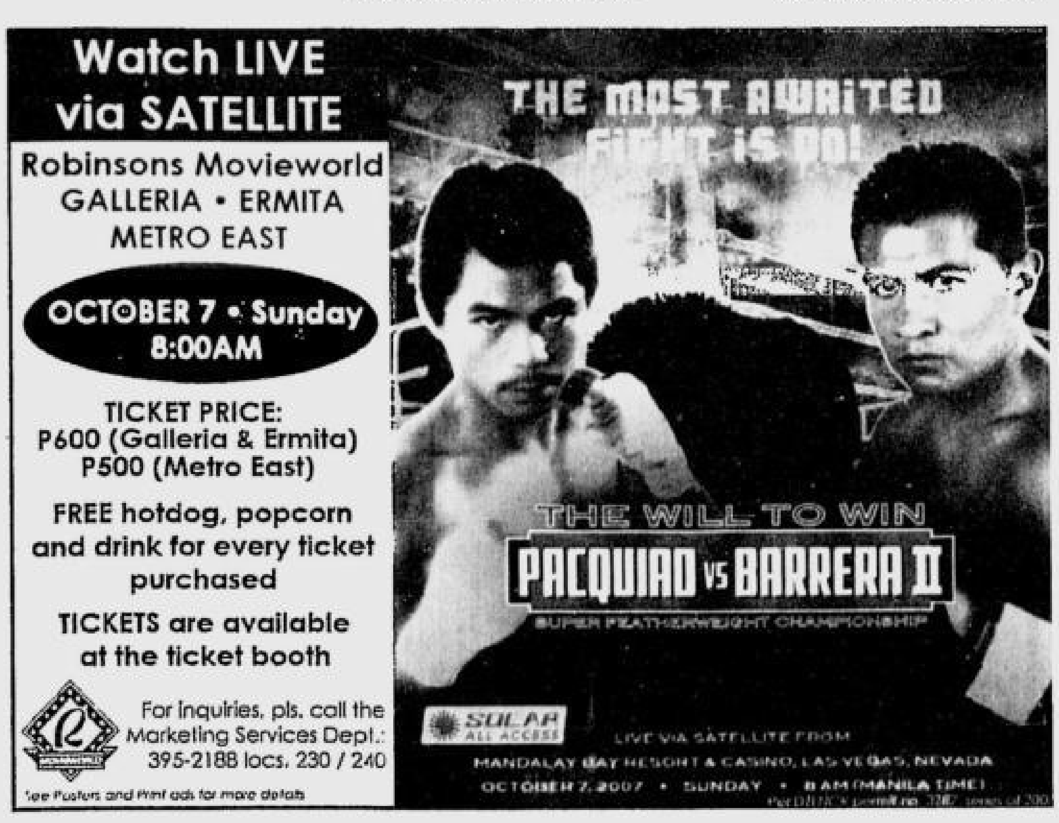

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1 THE BRAVE ONE • THX
1:50 4:35 7:20 10:00

2 RESIDENT EVIL 3
11:10 1:20 3:30 5:40 7:50 10:00

3 indieSine: GULONG
1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00

4 NO RESERVATION
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

5 ANG LALAKE sa PAROLA
12:40 2:30 4:20 6:10 8:00 9:50

6 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

7 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME 12:40 3:00
RESIDENT EVIL 3 5:10 7:20 9:30

8 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50

9 SHOOT 'EM UP
1:00 3:10 5:20 7:30 9:40

10 ROGUE ASSASSIN
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

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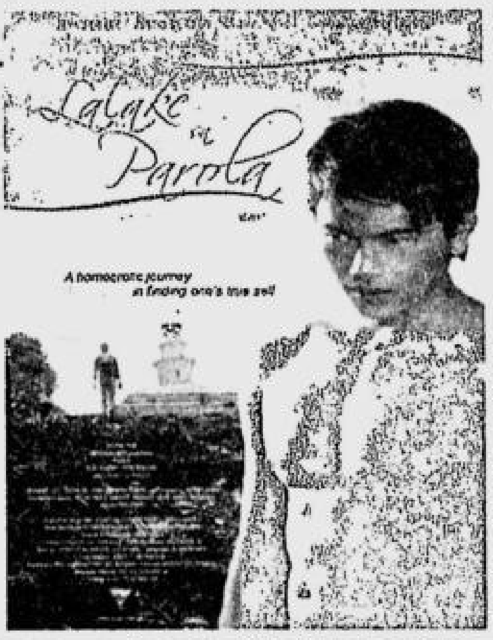
GALLERIA

Starring:
Harry Laurel, Justin de Leon, Jennifer Lee,
Sheree and Allan Paule

According to folklore, the fairy of the lighthouse shows herself every full moon to the man her heart desires. When this man succumbs to the fairy's charms and makes love to her, he will never long for any other woman. Woven into this legend is the story of Mateo (Harry Laurel), a lighthouse caretaker. Jerome (Justin de Leon), a gay man from the city finds himself deeply attracted to this simple yet seductive man upon meeting him. Soon, Mateo finds himself entering a subtle homoerotic journey with his newfound friend, while Suzet (Jennifer Lee), his girlfriend, continues to struggle for his love and attention. Will Mateo bravely cross the thin line between being straight and being gay in the midst of his conservative rural community?


Lalake sa Parola
A homoerotic journey in finding one's true self

NOW SHOWING
MTRCB Rating: R18

GRADED B by the Cinema Evaluation Board

ERMITA

1 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 10:00

2 SHOOT 'EM UP
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00

3 RESIDENT EVIL 3
12:35 3:00 5:25 7:45 10:00

4 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 10:00

5 NO RESERVATION
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:25 10:00

6 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME 12:00 2:25
RESIDENT EVIL 3 4:50 7:10 9:25

7 ROGUE ASSASSIN
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:25 10:00

A FILM BY SOCKIE FERNANDEZ

GULONG is a moving love story of a couple separated by time, who find themselves together again in the sunset of their lives. It is about friendship, love and life. The story is told from the point of view of Apao, a smart, kindhearted boy whose quest for an old bicycle reveals the stuff he is made of.

watch this only at Robinsons Movieworld Galleria
MTRCB Rating: G
September 22 to October 02

METRO EAST

1 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
1:00 3:35 6:15 9:00

2 RESIDENT EVIL 3
11:50 2:10 4:30 6:50 9:10

3 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
11:25 1:50 4:10 6:40 9:05

4 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME 11:20, 1:40
RESIDENT EVIL 3 4:00 6:20 8:40

5 ROGUE ASSASSIN
12:05 2:15 4:25 6:40 9:00

6 THE BRAVE ONE
1:10 3:40 6:20 9:00

7 NO RESERVATION
11:05 1:35 4:05 6:35 9:05

8 SHOOT 'EM UP
1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00

NOVALICHES

1 RESIDENT EVIL 3
2 NO RESERVATION
3 SHOOT 'EM UP
4 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU

PIONEER

1 NO RESERVATION
1:40 4:00 6:20 8:40

2 RESIDENT EVIL 3
12:00 2:10 4:20 6:30 8:40

3 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
12:05 2:15 4:25 6:35 8:45

4 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
1:15 3:45 6:15 8:45

STA. ROSA

Ticket Price: P80 / P90
(049) 837-0907

1 THE LAST LEGION
2 NANCY DREW
3 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
4 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU

LIPA

(043) 757-3884
(043) 312-5870

1 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
2 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
3 DAYWATCH
4 DISTURBIA

DASMARIÑAS

Ticket Price: P80
(046) 416-4332

1 DISTURBIA
2 THE BRAVE ONE
3 RESIDENT EVIL 3
4 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU

IMUS

(046) 875-3838
(046) 471-8186

1 RESIDENT EVIL 3
2 THE HOST
3 ROGUE ASSASSIN
4 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU

ANGELES

Ticket Price: P90
(045) 892-2346

1 THE BRAVE ONE
2 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
3 SKINWALKERS
4 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY

TARLAC

1 THE INVASION
2 A LOVE STORY
3 1408

STARMILLS

Ticket Price: P80 / P90 (045) 875-1920

1 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
2 ROGUE ASSASSIN
3 SKINWALKERS
4 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
5 RUSH HOUR 3
6 THE BRAVE ONE

BACOLOD

Ticket Price: P70
(034) 441-0459

1 ROGUE ASSASSIN
2 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
3 NANCY DREW
4 DISTURBIA
5 WAITRESS
6 LIGAW LIHAM

ILOILO

Ticket Price: P70.50 / P80.50
(033) 336-8070

1 ROGUE ASSASSIN
2 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
3 THE BRAVE ONE
4 UNDERDOG
5 SKINWALKERS
6 STOMP THE YARD

SHANG CINEPLEX

① NO RESERVATIONS
MTRCB GP
2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00

② RESIDENT EVIL 3
MTRCB R-13 12:20, 2:45
5:10, 7:35, 10:00

③ THE BRAVE ONE
(R-13) 1:00, 3:50
CHUCK and LARRY
(R-13) 6:40, 9:30

④ I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
MTRCB GP 12:10, 2:30,
4:50, 7:10, 9:30

PREMIERE THEATRE TEMPORARILY CLOSED

Movies and schedules are subject to change without prior notice

Catch the Cineplex Special

The Most Awaited Fight is On!
The Will to Win "PACQUIAO vs BARRERA"
Super Featherweight Championship
on OCTOBER 7, 2007 (SUNDAY) - 8:00 AM (MANILA TIME)
Live Via Satellite from
Mandalay Bay Resort & Casino, Las Vegas, Nevada
Cinema Gates Open at 7:00 AM · Ticket Price . P 600.00

6th floor, Shangri-La Plaza Mall
EDSA corner Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong City
Call 633-7851, loc. 171/ 170 or 633-2227
for more details.

GREENHILLS CINEMAS

GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER, ORTIGAS AVENUE, GREENHILLS

THEATRE MALL
GREENHILLS

NOW SHOWING

CINEMA 1 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
11:00 , 1:20 , 3:40
6:00 , 8:20 , 10:35
GP

CINEMA 2 RESIDENT EVIL
11:30 , 2:05 , 4:40
7:15 , 9:50

PROMENADE
GREENHILLS

NOW SHOWING

CINEMA 3 RESIDENT EVIL
12:00 , 2:35 , 5:10
7:45 , 10:20

CINEMA 4 CHUCK & LARRY
12:00 , 2:40 , 5:20
8:00 , 10:35

CINEMA 5 NO RESERVATIONS
10:40 , 1:00 , 3:20
5:40 , 8:00 , 10:20

TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR CINEMA HOTLINE CALL: 722-4495

MUSIC MUSEUM

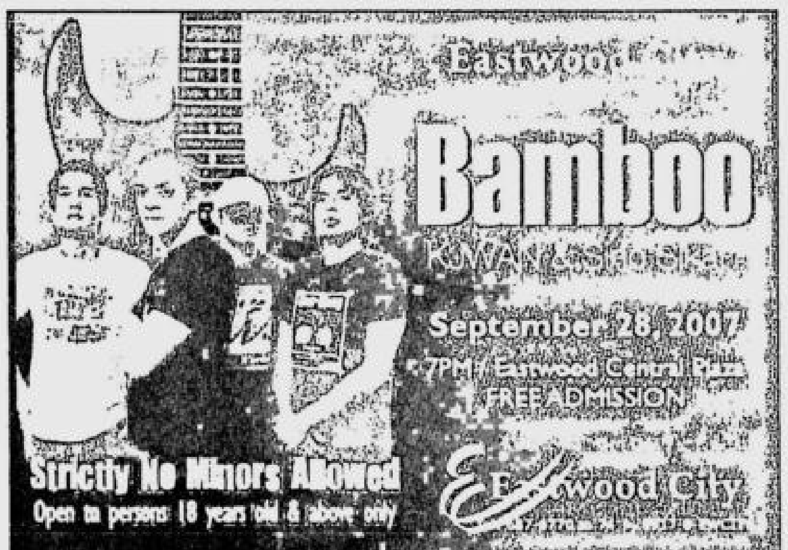
September 29, 2007	Sugarfree	8:00 PM
October 05 & 06, 2007	"Alamat" Stageplay	

TEATRINO

Sep 27, Oct. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31	Cerrudo Classico	8:00 PM
October 25, 2007	Ogie Alcasid	8:00 PM
October 26, 2007	John Lesaca	8:00 PM

FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION, PLS. CALL 721-4726 OR 721-0638

THE WILL TO WIN
PACQUIAO vs BARRERA II
OCTOBER 7, 2007 8:00 AM
WATCH IT AT PROMENADE CINEMA
TICKETS NOW AVAILABLE


Eastwood
Bamboo
September 28, 2007
7PM Eastwood Central Plaza
FREE ADMISSION
Strictly No Minors Allowed
Open to persons 18 years old & above only
Eastwood City

EASTWOOD CINEMAS

PACQUIAO
VS
BARRERA II
TICKETS NOW AVAILABLE
For inquiries, call:
687-6963
GUARANTEED SEATS
MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK AND LARRY
2:15, 5:05, 7:55, 10:40
R-13

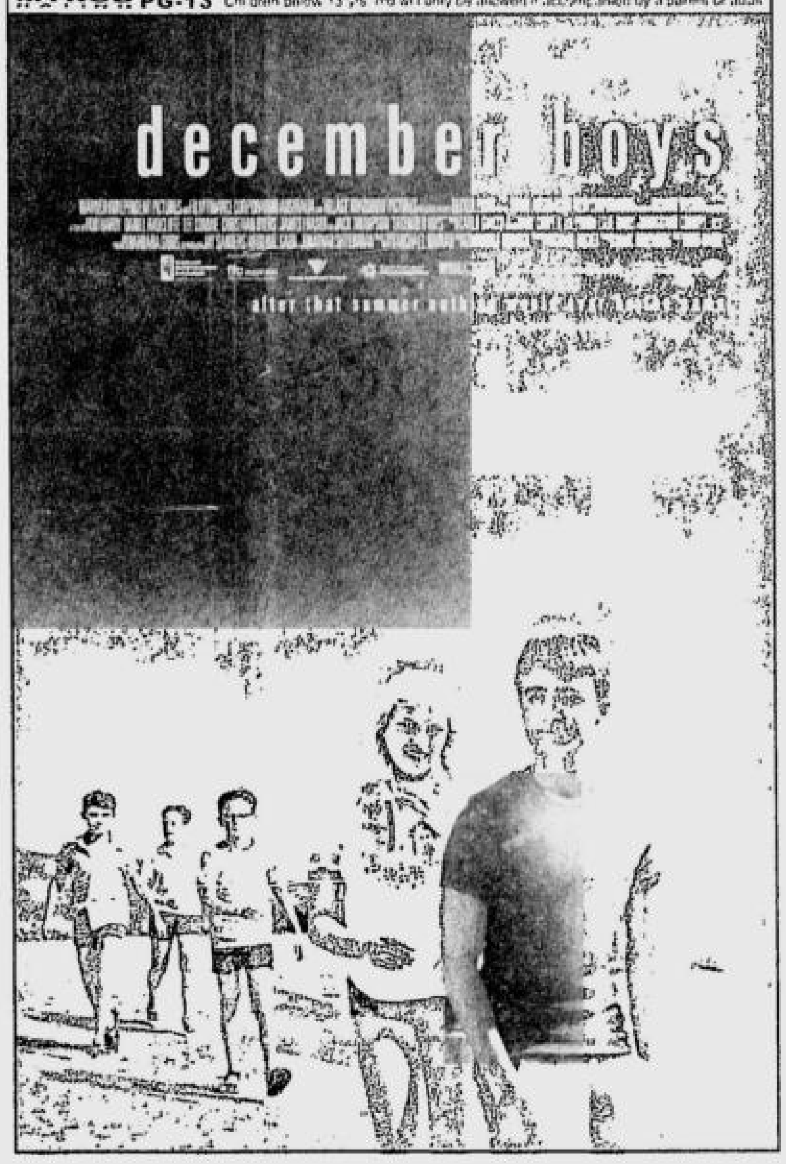
RESIDENT EVIL 3
1:35, 3:50, 6:15, 8:40, 11:00
R-13

NO RESERVATIONS
1:05, 3:35, 6:05, 8:35, 11:00
G

I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
2:05, 4:35, 7:05, 9:50
G

OPENS OCTOBER 3

MTRCB PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult


december boys
after that summer nothing would ever be the same

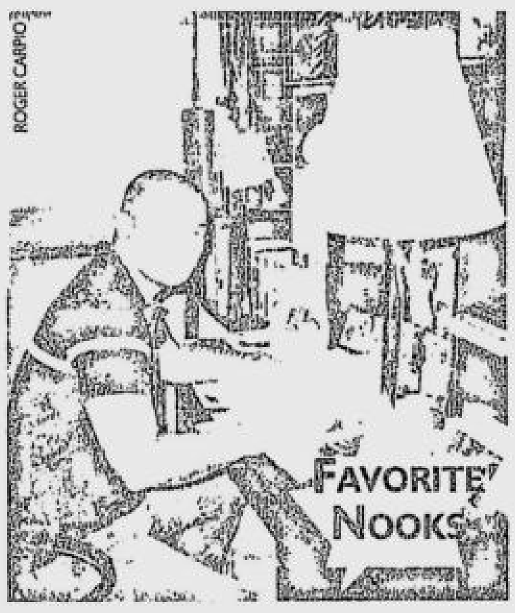
TAIL TALES

JED MADELA

My five-month-old pet Basti is a typical beagle—he loves to play and run around the house. When he's hungry or needs something, he gets his squeaky toy and makes a lot of noise. He won't stop until someone minds him. What a brat, huh? But he's really *malambing*. After work, I go straight to his kennel. When he sees me, he jumps with excitement. That makes my exhaustion disappear. He eats anything, even fruits. He loves apples. I give him vitamins every day and, after his meals, we brush his teeth. Apart from Basti (who lives with me), I have four other dogs (who live with my aunt): a pug named Max, a mini pinscher named Lana and her two pups Diego and Carlos. Early this week, Lana gave birth to one male and two female puppies.

Bayani San Diego Jr.

FAVORITE NOOKS


ROGER CARPIO

MONSOUR DEL ROSARIO

My favorite part of the house is my work room. I actually like all the rooms in this house, but I spend a lot of time in my office, where I write letters and read books. I can make a mess of it and no one will mind. Plus, there's a window there that leads to the terrace. The room is very me. That's where I keep my Bruce Lee posters and other personal stuff. I like the TV room as well, where I watch sports shows.

Bayani San Diego Jr.

JR says he uses only his own products.
ROMY HOMILLA

Soaps . . .

From page J1

Tree; and natural-bleaching Kamias.

The actor says he has not used othe soaps since he perfected his formulas. H has yet to put them in the market, though.

In his front yard, JR demonstrates how t make the Papaya-Calamansi variant – from the mixing of coconut oil with sodiun hydroxide and oil-soluble dye, to the pouring of additives like vitamin E, alpha hydroxy acid and mild scents. He says he allows the mixture to dry overnight befor cutting it to size.

Secret ingredient

"*Para hindi harsh sa* skin," he explains "at least two weeks from the mixing *bag gamitin*."

He has a "secret ingredient," he says. An although organic products are normally ur scented, JR says his products suit the Fi ipino preference for sweet-smelling soap.

The "hobby" has brought him to scienc fairs at the World Trade Center in Manila The products have made their way to othe countries, too, thanks to loyal fans who order by the bulk to sell abroad.

How about an official endorser? "*Saka n 'yon*, if it becomes a big business," he say smiling widely. "*Sa ngayon ako muna.*"

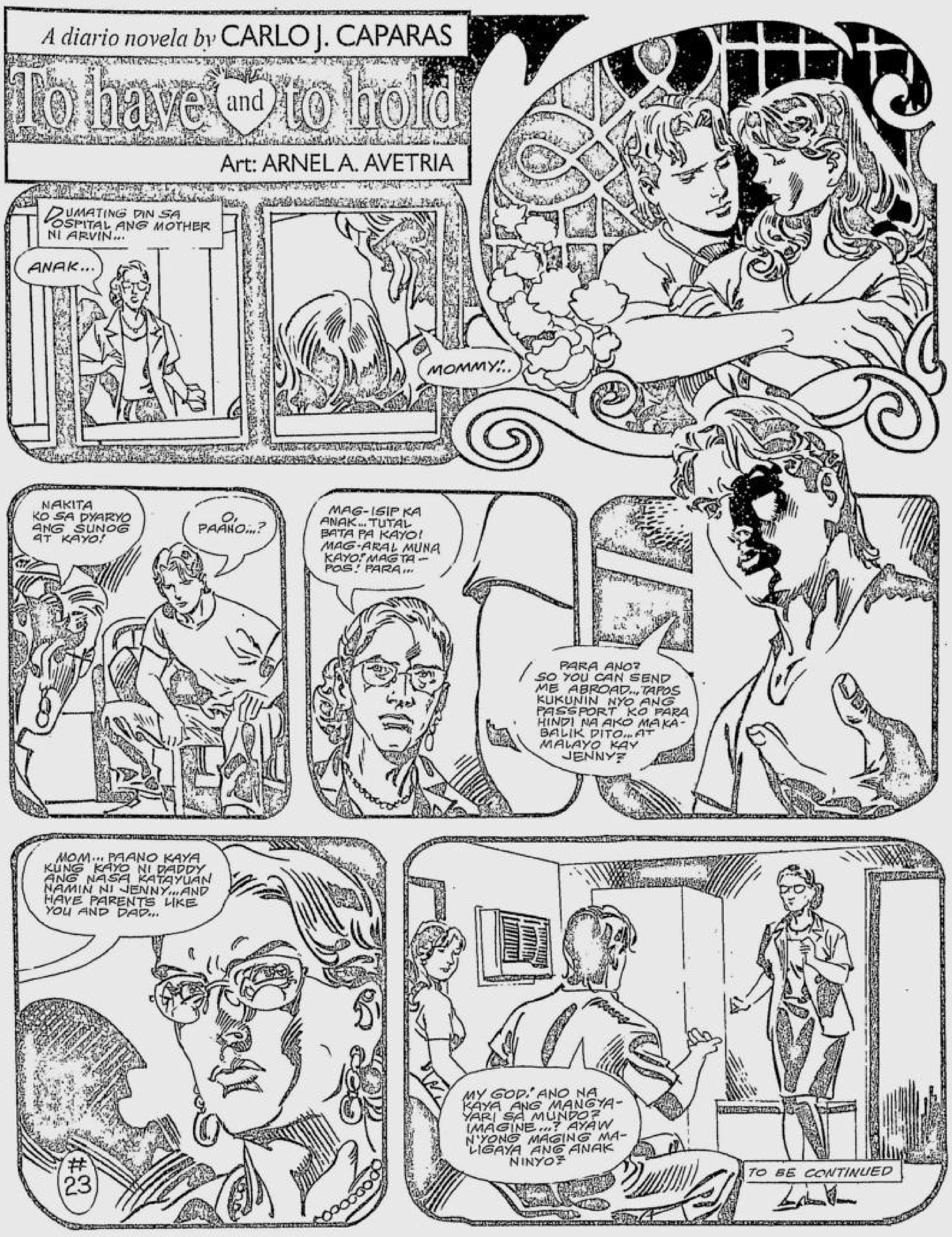
ComicRelief

e-mail feedback at arts@inquirer.com.ph

A diario novela by CARLO J. CAPARAS

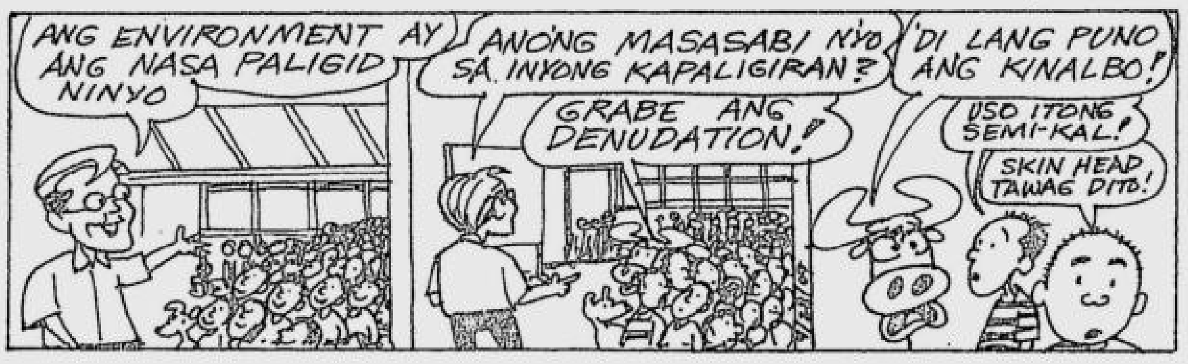
To have and to hold

Art: ARNEL A. AVETRIA


DUMATING DIN SA OSPITAL ANG MOTHER NI ARVIN...
ANAK...
MOMMY!..
NAKITA KO SA DYARYO ANG SUNOG AT KAYO!
O, PAANO...?
MAG-ISIP KA ANAK... TUTAL BATA PA KAYO! MAG-ARAL MUNA KAYO! MAGTAPOS! PARA...
PARA ANO? SO YOU CAN SEND ME ABROAD... TAPOS KUKUNIN NYO ANG PASSPORT KO PARA HINDI NA AKO MAKABALIK DITO... AT MALAYO KAY JENNY?
MOM... PAANO KAYA KUNG KAYO NI DADDY ANG NASA KATAYUAN NAMIN NI JENNY... AND HAVE PARENTS LIKE YOU AND DAD...
#23
MY GOD! ANO NA KAYA ANG MANGYAYARI SA MUNDO? IMAGINE...? AYAW N'YONG MAGING MALIGAYA ANG ANAK NINYO?
TO BE CONTINUED

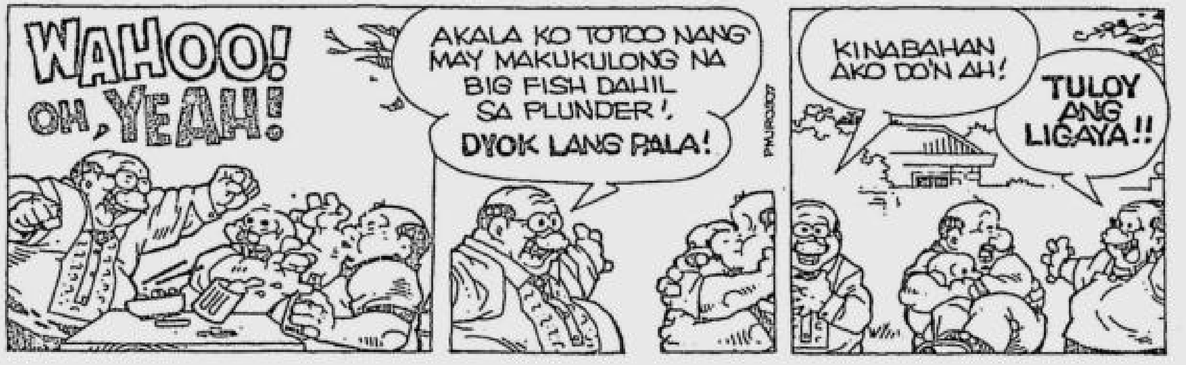
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


ANG ENVIRONMENT AY ANG NASA PALIGID NINYO
ANONG MASASABI N'YO SA INYONG KAPALIGIRAN?
GRABE ANG DENUDATION!
'DI LANG PUNO ANG KINALBO!
USO ITONG SEMI-KAL!
SKIN HEAD TAWAG DITO!

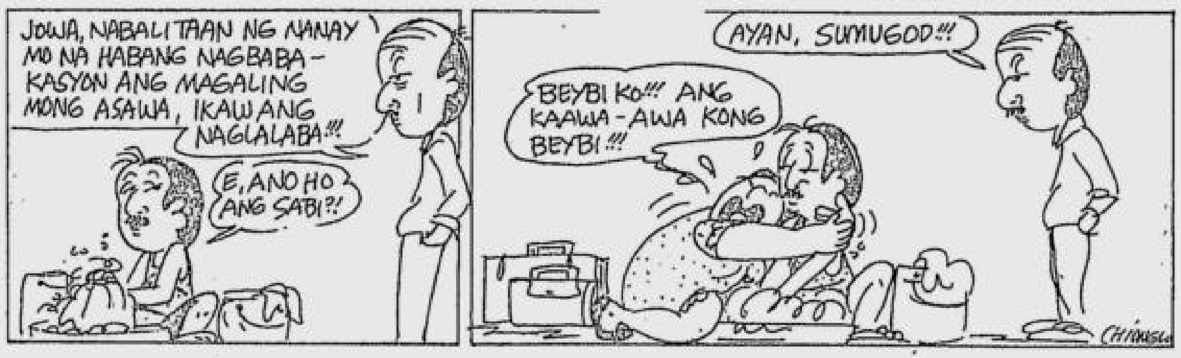
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


WAHOO! OH, YEAH!
AKALA KO TOTOO NANG MAY MAKUKULONG NA BIG FISH DAHIL SA PLUNDER!, DYOK LANG PALA!
KINABAHAN AKO DO'N AH!
TULOY ANG LIGAYA!!

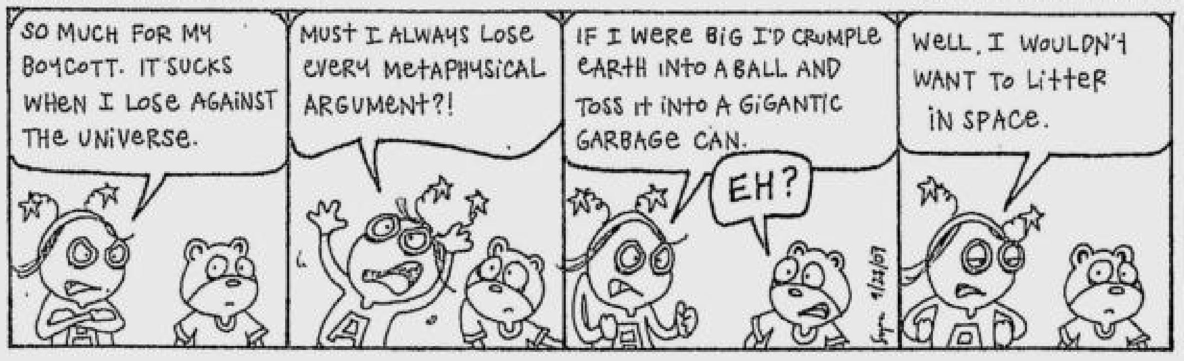
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


JOWA, NABALITAAN NG NANAY MO NA HABANG NAGBABAKASYON ANG MAGALING MONG ASAWA, IKAW ANG NAGLALABA!!!
E, ANO HO ANG SABI?!
AYAN, SUMUGOD!!!
BEYBI KO!!! ANG KAAWA-AWA KONG BEYBI!!!

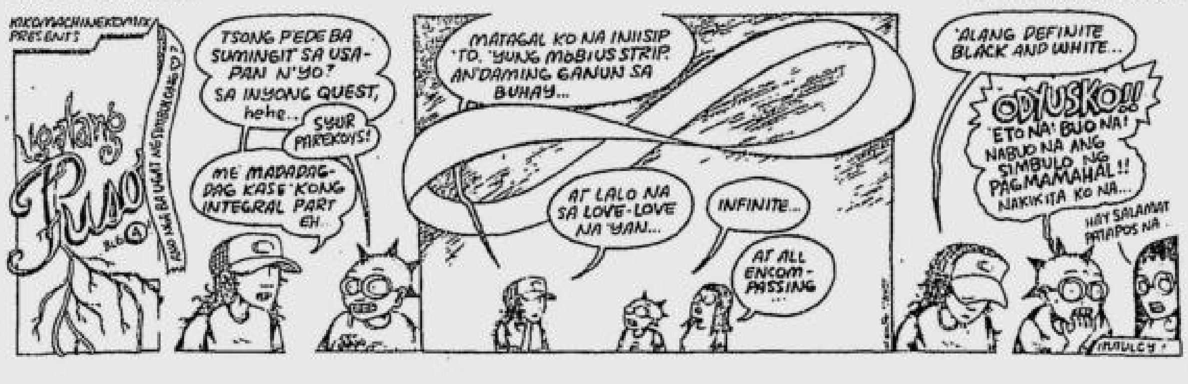
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


SO MUCH FOR MY BOYCOTT. IT SUCKS WHEN I LOSE AGAINST THE UNIVERSE.
MUST I ALWAYS LOSE EVERY METAPHYSICAL ARGUMENT?!
IF I WERE BIG I'D CRUMPLE EARTH INTO A BALL AND TOSS IT INTO A GIGANTIC GARBAGE CAN.
EH?
WELL, I WOULDN'T WANT TO LITTER IN SPACE.

KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


KIKOMACHINEKOMIX PRESENTS
TSONG PEDE BA SUMINGIT SA USAPAN N'YO? SA INYONG QUEST, hehe...
SYUR PAREKOYS!
ME MADADAGDAG KASE KONG INTEGRAL PART EH.
MATAGAL KO NA INIISIP 'TO. 'YUNG MOBIUS STRIP. AN'DAMING GANUN SA BUHAY...
AT LALO NA SA LOVE-LOVE NA 'YAN...
INFINITE...
AT ALL ENCOMPASSING...
'ALANG DEFINITE BLACK AND WHITE...
ODIYUSKO!! 'ETO NA! BUO NA! NABUO NA ANG SIMBULO NG PAGMAMAHAL!! NAKIKITA KO NA...
HAY SALAMAT NATAPOS NA.

DAILY CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	■	5	6	7	8	■	9	10	11	12	13
14				■	15				■	16				
17				■	18				■	19				
20				21					22	■	23			
■	■	■	24				■	■	25	26				
27	28	29				■	30	31					■	■
32				■	33	34					■	35	36	37
38				39	■	40			■	41	42			
43			■	44	45				46	■	47			
■	■	48	49					■	50	51				
52	53					■	■	54				■	■	■
55				■	56	57	58					59	60	61
62				63	■	64				■	65			
66					■	67				■	68			
69					■	70				■	71			

By Barry Silk
McLean, VA

9/28/07

ACROSS
1 Memphis record label
5 Novelist Hunter
9 Deduce
14 Den
15 Roman fiddler
16 Singer Apple
17 "M*A*S*H" star
18 Enthusiasm
19 Move stealthily
20 Type of announcer
23 "Dies __"
24 Shady trees
25 Topped on eBay
27 Future ovum
30 Bill or Anne
32 Winglike parts
33 Vicious usurers
35 Watch chain
38 Signe of "Johnny Angel"
40 H.S. math
41 Intense pain
43 Half of deux
44 City near Durango, CO
47 Sports Illustrated founder
48 Grand __ Island
50 Trophies and such
52 Timber trouble
54 Latin 101 verb
55 Geom. figure
56 1960 hit by The Crests
62 Look forward to
64 Lot size
65 San __, CA
66 Procession of matadors
67 The gamut
68 Chip in a chip
69 Wield, as influence
70 Ms. Anderson
71 Nolan or Meg

DOWN
1 High-five sound
2 Statuesque
3 Turturro of "The Sopranos"
4 Superman power
5 Pepsin and rennin
6 Boardroom execs
7 Asian sea
8 Vincent Lopez theme
9 Contingencies
10 Premier Khrushchev
11 Kind of drive
12 Zhou __
13 Did a fall job
21 3-letter lunch
22 Wars of the Roses side
26 Stellar boar
27 Hawaiian Island
28 "The Good Earth" heroine
29 Kind of basis
30 Mediterranean island nation
31 Strongly advise
34 Injure
36 One way to store data
37 Tournament passes
39 Quatro y quatro
42 Pickle holder
45 Horse feed
46 River of Victoria Falls
49 More pretentious
51 Manner
52 Curtain
53 Add luster to
54 Stage frontage
57 Volcano near Manila
58 External: pref.
59 Actor Curtis
60 Como __ Usted?
61 Hammer part
63 Small child

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

L	O	S	E	■	I	D	E	A	L	■	P	L	A	Y
A	V	I	S	■	N	O	R	S	E	■	R	E	N	E
H	A	P	P	I	N	E	S	S	S	N	E	A	K	S
R	L	S	■	S	I	R	E	N	■	A	P	P	L	E
■	■	■	S	S	N	■	■	■	S	T	A	S	E	S
T	H	R	O	U	G	H	A	D	O	O	R	■	■	■
S	A	O	N	E	■	E	L	U	L	■	E	N	D	S
A	N	A	■	S	T	R	I	P	E	S	■	O	A	T
R	A	N	G	■	R	O	B	E	■	E	T	U	D	E
■	■	■	Y	O	U	D	I	D	N	T	K	N	O	W
C	U	R	R	I	E	■	■	■	O	O	O	■	■	■
O	N	E	A	L	■	B	A	N	T	U	■	A	B	S
T	H	A	T	Y	O	U	L	E	F	T	O	P	E	N
T	I	D	E	■	D	R	A	M	A	■	E	S	A	I
A	P	E	S	■	E	R	R	O	R	■	R	O	M	P

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9/28/07

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

					8			
	5					2	9	
			6	7			8	
		8		3				7
		4	8	2	5	6		
5				1		8		
	7			6	9			
	1	9					5	
			4					

Difficulty Level ☆☆☆☆

9/28

©2007 Conceptis Puzzles. Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc

Answer to previous puzzle

3	9	4	1	8	2	5	6	7
5	6	2	4	9	7	1	3	8
1	7	8	6	3	5	2	9	4
6	2	7	3	5	4	9	8	1
8	5	9	7	1	6	3	4	2
4	1	3	9	2	8	7	5	6
7	3	6	2	4	9	8	1	5
9	4	5	8	7	1	6	2	3
2	8	1	5	6	3	4	7	9

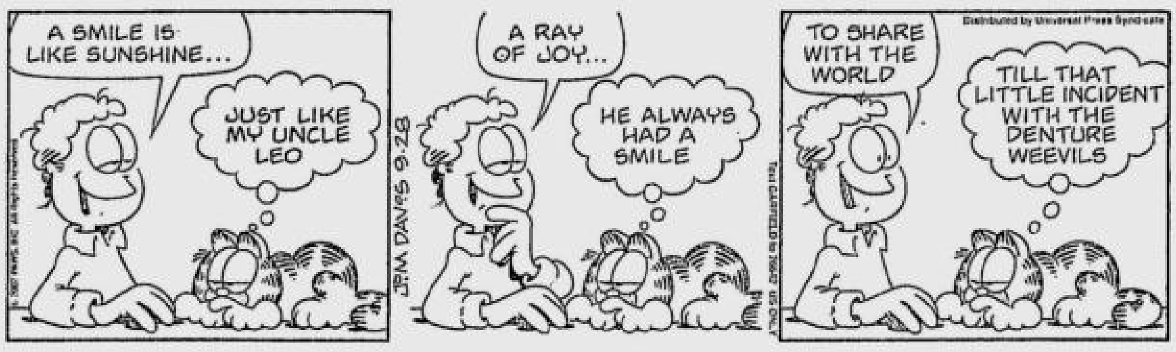
Difficulty Level ★★★

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS


A SMILE IS LIKE SUNSHINE...
JUST LIKE MY UNCLE LEO
A RAY OF JOY...
HE ALWAYS HAD A SMILE
TO SHARE WITH THE WORLD
TILL THAT LITTLE INCIDENT WITH THE DENTURE WEEVILS
Distributed by Universal Press Syndicate

HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're compassionate, caring and extremely hardworking. (You will always fight for the underdog.) Despite your charming, friendly exterior, you're very shrewd and realistic. You have big plans and very original ideas. From your mid-50s onward, travel and education become extremely appealing. The year ahead is full of exciting, fresh, new beginnings. Open any door!

Birthdate of: Brigitte Bardot, actress; Naomi Watts, actress; Mira Sorvino, actress.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): For the rest of the year, your domestic situation will be the scene of busy activity, chaos and people arriving and leaving. Be patient with family members.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): For the next six months, you'll be unusually bold and assertive in all your communication with others, but most especially with siblings, neighbors and relatives.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): You've decided to do some hard work. This urge to be productive is going to stay with you until next spring. You're on a mission, and you intend to complete it.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Mars is normally in each sign for about seven weeks. However, today Mars moves into your sign where it will stay for the rest of the year and into 2008.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): You might be involved in some secret activities for the next 6-7 months. You're definitely going to play your cards very close to your chest.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Conflict with friends or groups is highly possible in the months ahead. Alternatively, you might have a lot of energy to work with others.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): You're going to become unusually ambitious until around June of next year. You're going to take the bit in your teeth and run with it.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): You're going to start to pour more and more energy into education, training, traveling, publishing and the media. That's because you want to expand your world in some way.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): For the rest of the year and even longer, you're going to feel unusually intense and passionate about life, especially your sex life. However, this also will include dealing with shared property and debt.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Easy does it. Mars is going to oppose your sign for a number of months ahead—and this is most unusual. Normally it lasts for about seven weeks, not seven months! Be patient with partners!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): You're certainly going into work mode. For the next year you're gung-ho to get organized and more productive in every way. You want efficiency and effectiveness!

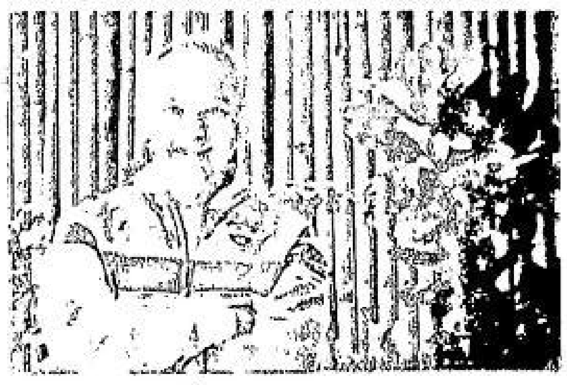
PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Get ready for some fun ahead! Love affairs, romance, vacations, playful times with children, sports and all the arts will shine for you for months ahead! Enjoy!

OVERSIZED chess set is from Paete.

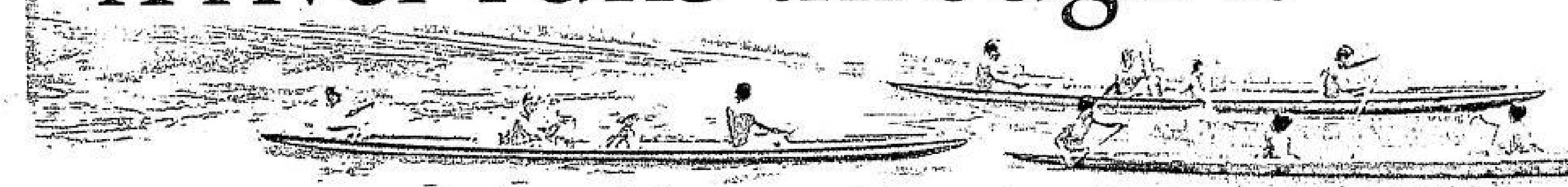
HOME BODY

HE INSTALLED recycled capiz windows in the office/studio.

ROCKING chairs are from a GMA 7 executive.



A river runs through it



Kapuso director Louie Ignacio shares this weekend hideaway with his mom

CARNIVAL masks, also from Paete.

DIREK Louie has a wide collection of masks.

By Bayani San Diego Jr.
Photos by Rudy Esperas

TO GET TO HIS PAGSANJAN rest house, TV director Louie Ignacio has to cross a river.

It's just a quick five minutes by banca, and he is invariably accompanied by his mongrel pet Gloria—which swims enthusiastically alongside the boat.

At the riverbank, he is greeted by a 23-foot image of Our Lady of Guadalupe, sculpted by Paete artist Lino Dulay.

There is a *bahay kubo*—make that a modern nipa hut in royal red and apple green.

"I wanted it built in the traditional manner," Louie explains.

He eschewed hollow blocks and cement and opted for sawali, bamboo and wood. "But I didn't want it to look typical. That's why I painted it in vibrant colors."

The *kubo* reflects his personality, he notes, and houses his passions—from photography to Paete art, from paintings to a Fukuyama & Sons piano.

"We took the baby grand across the river on 15 bancas tied together. About 30 men carried it up the house," he recounts.

The white piano, along with the vacation home, was a surprise birthday gift to his mom, Fe Lagdameo-Ignacio.

"My mom plays the piano. I secretly bought this place and the piano three years ago," Louie says. "We rushed the construction in time for her birthday in October."

When the day came, he told her they were off to celebrate in a Laguna resort. "We blindfolded her during the banca ride," Louie relates. "When we got here, I took off her blindfold and told her the rest house was my present to her. She cried buckets."

Now he spends long weekends here with his mom and three city dogs — "as often as my schedule permits."

As director of the daily chat show "Sis" and the weekly programs "Celebrity Duets," "Mel & Joey" and "SOP," Direk Louie's calendar is booked solid.

The Laguna retreat allows him to get away from it all, he says. "When I'm here, after receiving the overnight ratings for the week, I turn off my cell phone."

Apart from the main house, he built a mini-chapel, a guest house and an office/studio where he paints to his heart's content.

In the works is an exhibit of his work — paintings and photographs — at the Heritage Gallery in SM Megamall. Target is April 5, 2008.

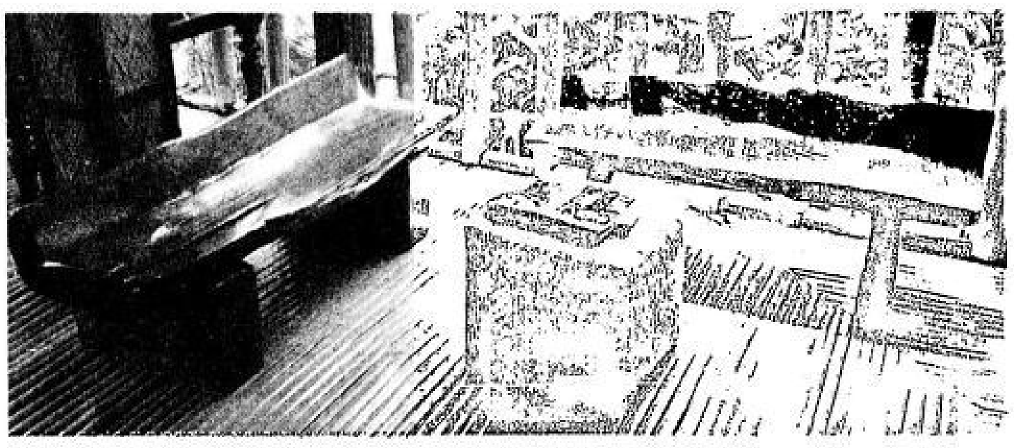
Although angel paintings by Mion from Italy adorn the walls of his living room, Louie is most proud of a clown piece painted and given by comic Joey de Leon.

His own paintings are in the work area — displayed alongside colorful masks and wooden sculptures from Paete, exquisite antique pieces from the Jo-Liza shop and wind chimes given by friends.

"I plan to retire here," he quips. "I love the idea of living close to nature."

The 1,500 square meter-property is teeming with fruit trees. "I have seven *lanzones* and five *rambutan* trees. I also have coconut, *avocado, guyabano* and *langka*. We get all our fruits and vegetables from this garden."

Wait, there's more about this piece of paradise on earth: "You should see it at night; the river is lit up by fireflies."

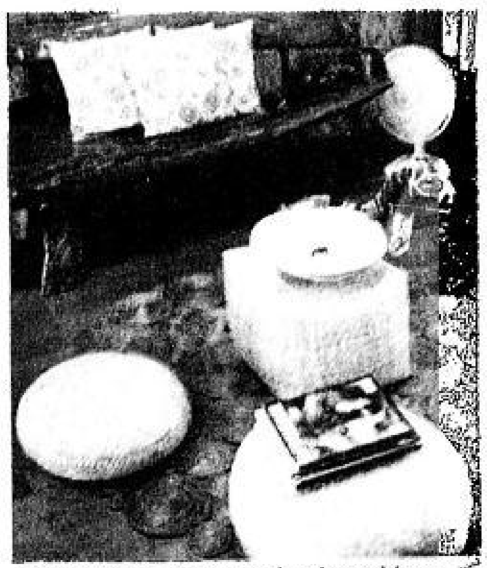


WOOD benches and *banig* table from Quezon make a cozy reading nook.

THE 23-FOOT Lady of Guadalupe image

ANGEL figures in the mini-chapel

DIREK surprised mom Fe with the rest house on her birthday three years ago.

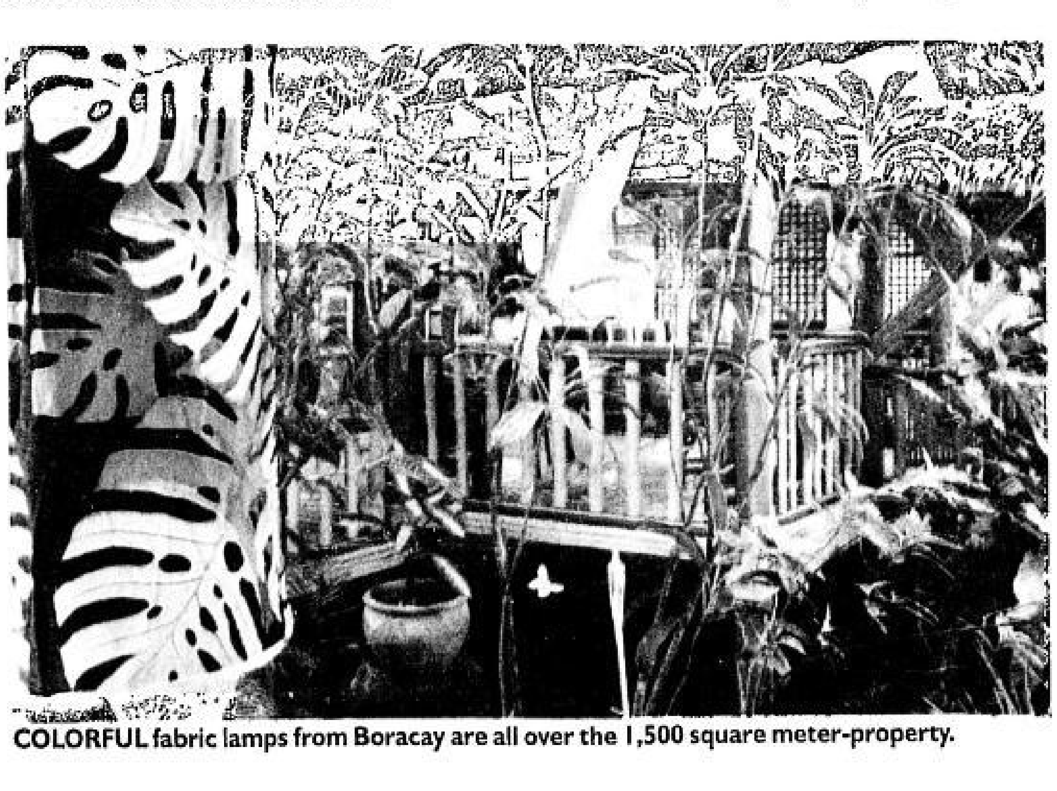


IN THE living room are banig cushions and a mahogany bench from Quezon.

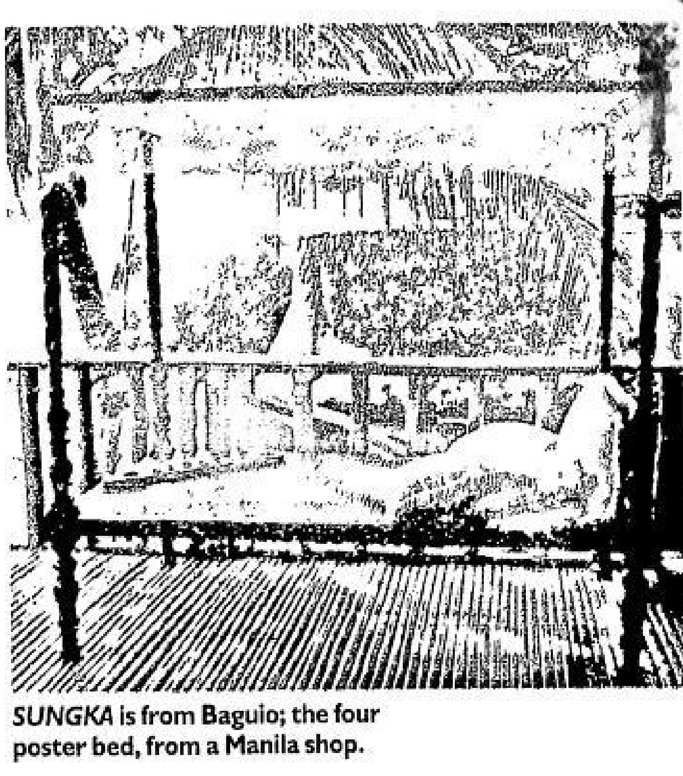
NARRA swing is from Quezon province.

LAST Supper masks, created by Paete artist Sor.

BUTTERFLY jar



COLORFUL fabric lamps from Boracay are all over the 1,500 square meter-property.



SUNGKA is from Baguio; the four poster bed, from a Manila shop.

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor **Emmie G. Velarde**

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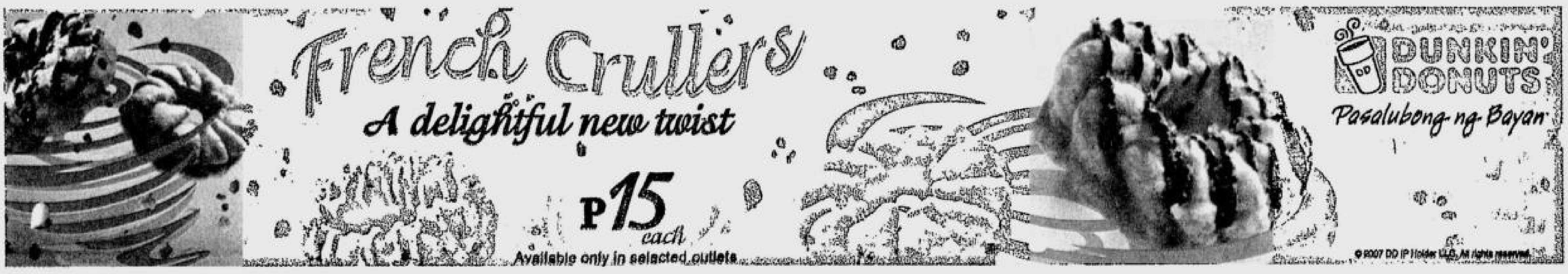
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Pinoy guitar icons to mentor enthusiasts for free

PAGE K3

MANILYN Reynes RODEL ROTONI

A 'happy' 25 years

By Gerry Plaza
Inquirer.net

WITH A FICKLE-MINDED audience and an industry constantly in search of fresh faces, your ordinary '80s stars would have either settled abroad, chosen another profession, left the limelight for the sake of marriage or family, or merely languished in obscurity.

Not Manilyn Reynes.

Twenty-five years after the child singing sensation was plucked out of Cebu and prospered in a career that spanned television, movies and music, Manilyn looks back — a "happy" star.

Credit largely goes to her 14-year marriage

A HAPPY/ K3

Ravelos: No exclusive deal with GMA 7

By Marinel R. Cruz

REGINA RAVELO-MARASIGAN, daughter of the late comics writer and publisher Mars Ravelo, has denied that her family has an exclusive deal with GMA 7 for adaptations of her father's works.

Marasigan made the statement after Ravelo's "Lastikman" series debuted on rival network ABS-CBN Monday night. She said she heard that GMA 7 bosses had been "surprised."

"GMA 7 does not have enough stars in their stable," Marasigan told INQUIRER during the "Lastikman" press launch at Teatrino in Greenhills. "*Baka mabitin lang ang* project."

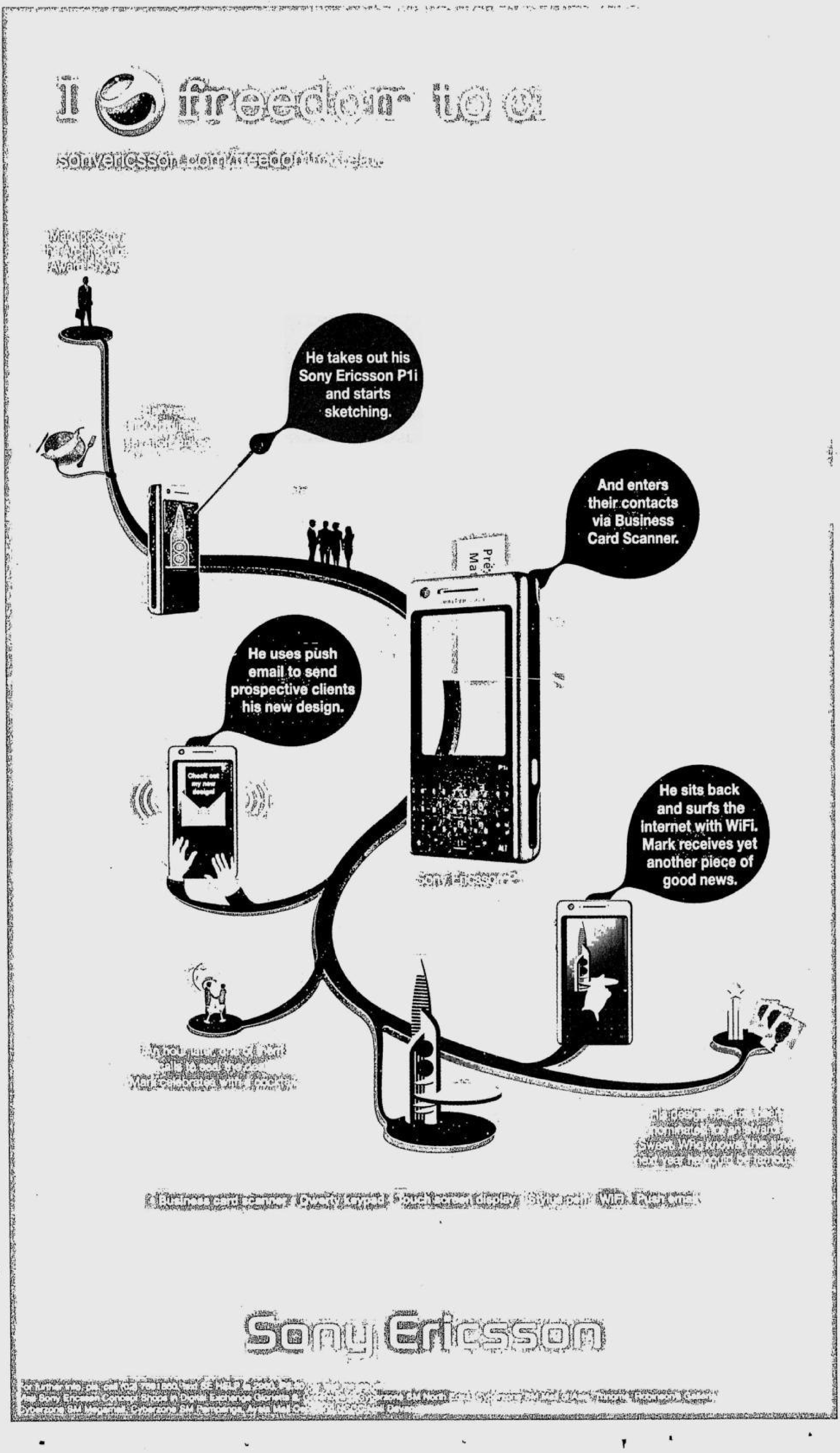
The TV adaptations of "Darna" and "Captain Barbell," both Ravelo creations, were top-rating Kapuso shows. Angel Locsin played Darna; Richard Gutierrez, Captain Barbell.

"Apart from that, we have no problem with GMA 7," said Marasigan, adding that their next Kapuso project was the serialization of Ravelo's "Dyesebel" next year.

ABS-CBN vice president for Entertainment Deo Endrinal said he thought only of Vhong Navarro as Lastikman when the network bought the serialization rights two years ago. "The great Mars Ravelo would be pleased," Endrinal said.

Pre-production was pushed to August 2006 because Vhong had to finish movie commitments with Star Cinema, movie arm of ABS-CBN. Actual shoot began only last March, Endrinal disclosed.

RAVELOS/ K3


He takes out his Sony Ericsson P1i and starts sketching.
And enters their contacts via Business Card Scanner.
He uses push email to send prospective clients his new design.
Check out my new design!
He sits back and surfs the internet with WiFi. Mark receives yet another piece of good news.
Sony Ericsson

CHEER FACTOR

Battle of the rappers

LONDON—KANYE WEST HAS BEATEN 50 Cent in the British leg of their much-hyped "battle of the rappers" after his new album "Graduation" went straight to number one in its first week. Chicago rapper West outsold his New York rival's latest release, "Curtis," which got the number two spot, the Official UK Charts Company said on Sunday. The showdown attracted huge media attention around the world after 50 Cent suggested in an interview that he would scrap his solo career if he lost the race for the top spot. Figures due to be released later on Sunday are expected to show that West also sold more than 50 Cent, real name Curtis Jackson, in the United States. *Reuters*

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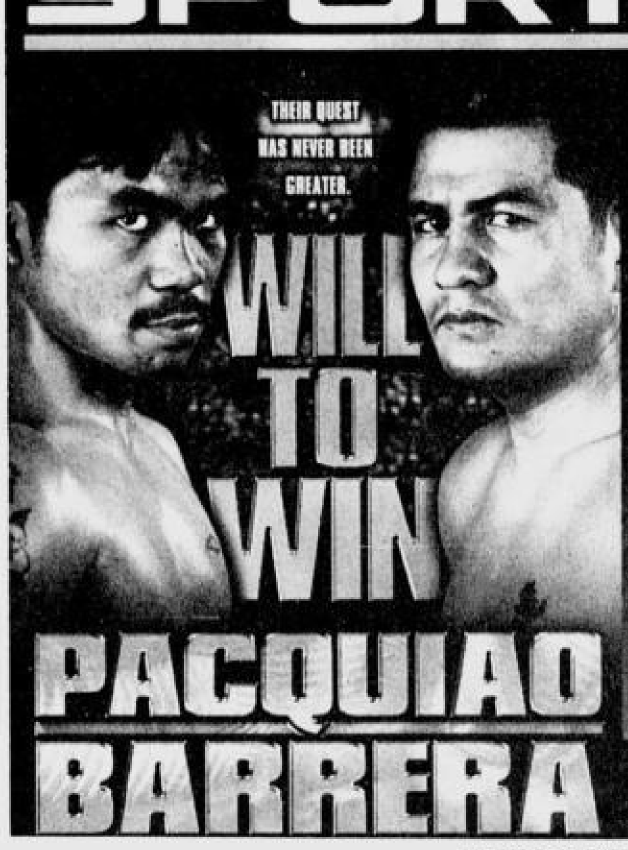
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11. SHOOT EM' UP
12. RUSH HOUR 3

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7. THE HOST
8. 1408
9. RESIDENT EVIL
10. I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
11. SHOOT EM' UP
12. RUSH HOUR 3

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 935-0749

1. THE HOST
2. UNDERDOG
3. A LOVE STORY
4. ROGUE ASSASSIN
5. THE BRAVE ONE
6. SHOOT EM' UP
7. RESIDENT EVIL
8. I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
9. I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
10. 1408
11. NO RESERVATION
12. I KNOW WHO KILLED ME

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8. I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
9. 1408
10. UNDERDOG

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4. 1408
5. NO RESERVATION
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7. UNDERDOG
8. SHOOT EM' UP
9. A LOVE STORY

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3. I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
4. ROGUE ASSASSIN
5. NO RESERVATION
6. RESIDENT EVIL
7. 1408
8. RUSH HOUR 3
9. I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
10. DISTURBIA
11. UNDERDOG
12. THE BRAVE ONE

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2. DISTURBIA/RESIDENT EVIL
3. THE BRAVE ONE
4. I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU

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3. I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
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3. RESIDENT EVIL
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6. THE HOST
7. I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
8. SHOOT EM' UP

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3. I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK AND LARRY
4. RUSH HOUR 3
5. I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
6. SKINWALKERS

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1. UNDERDOG
2. NANCY DREW
3. I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
4. I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK AND LARRY

LUZON

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2. I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
3. SKINWALKERS
4. DAYWATCH

SM CITY PAMPANGA (045)9637681-85

1. SKINWALKERS
2. THE BRAVE ONE
3. ROGUE ASSASSIN
4. UNDERDOG
5. I NOW PRONOUNCE [illegible]
6. I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU

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1. DISTURBIA
2. DAYWATCH
3. I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
4. I KNOW WHO KILLED ME

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3. SKINWALKERS
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3. BLIND DATING
4. I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK AND LARRY

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2. **RESERVED**
3. SKINWALKERS
4. I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
5. THE BRAVE ONE
6. ROGUE ASSASSIN
7. **RESERVED**
8. THE LAST LEGION

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1. THE BRAVE ONE
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3. RESIDENT EVIL
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5. I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
6. THE HOST
7. I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
8. THE LAST LEGION

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2. ROGUE ASSASSIN
3. NANCY DREW
4. DISTURBIA

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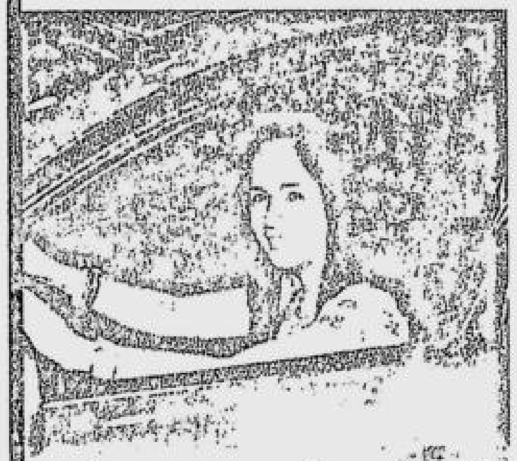

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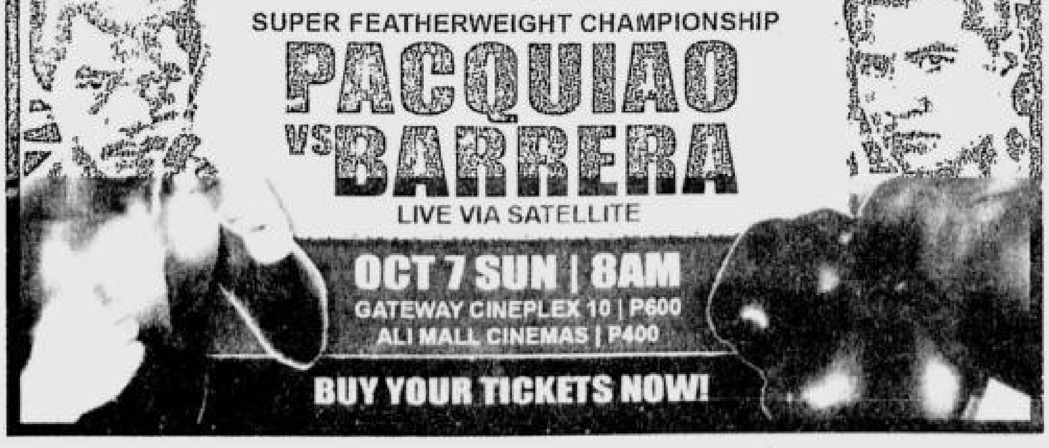
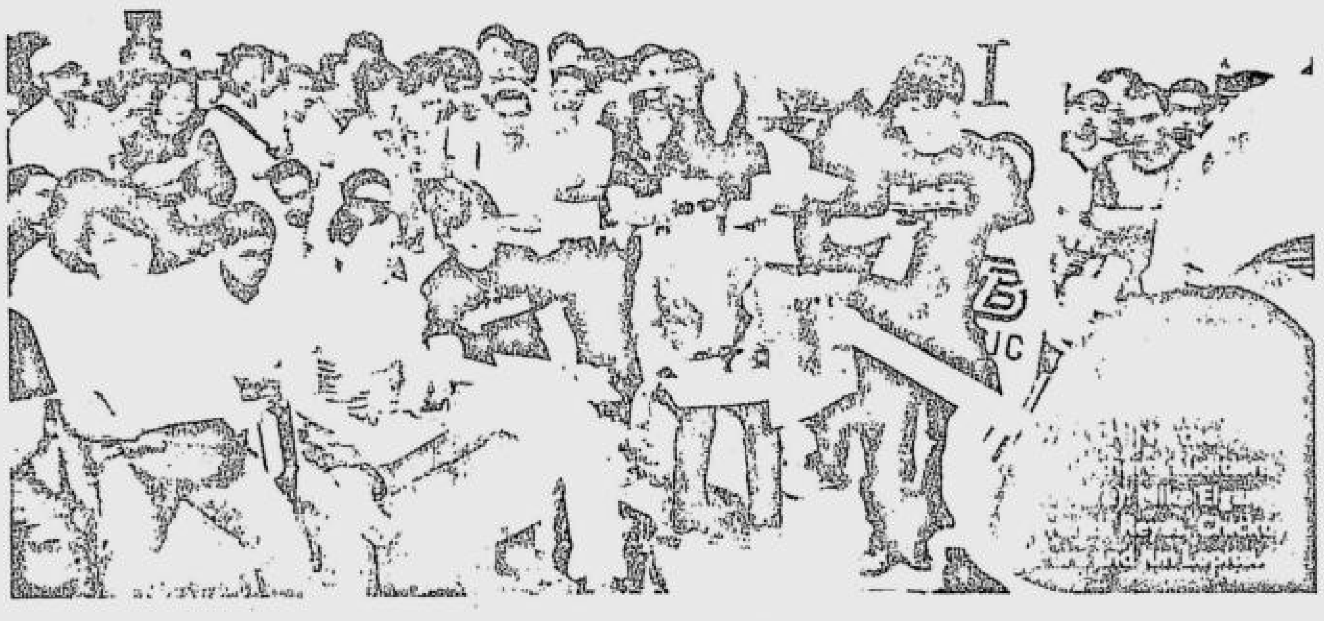
[illegible] 3:30 / 5:55 [illegible]
SHOOT EM UP
12:40 / 2:30 [illegible]
I 'VE FALLEN FOR YOU





Guitar heroes play mentors

By Pocholo Concepcion

FOUR HUNDRED BUDDING MUSICIANS turned up at the activity center of Trinoma Mall in Quezon City recently to audition for "Musikhero" ("music hero"), a three-day workshop which starts on Monday in Baguio City.

Some of the country's top guitarists, bassists and drummers are serving as mentors at the music camp. They include former band mates Jun Lopito and Chickoy Pura of the Jerks; The Dawn's Francis Reyes, Buddy Zabala and JB Leonor; Rivermaya's Mike Elgar, Japs Sergio and Mark Escueta; Bamboo's Ira Cruz and Vic Mercado; Freestyle's Rommel de la Cruz; Razorback's Louie Talan; and Side A's Ernie Severino.

Only 75 of those who auditioned will be picked. By the end of the workshop, the most promising four will comprise a group to represent the Philippines at the London International Music Festival in April 2008. They also become official endorsers of instrument brands carried by JB Music, which organized "Musikhero."

Lucky kids

At the auditions, most of the mentors noted that today's kids were lucky because they had access to the Internet, which offers a lot of instructional videos from the world's top musicians.

Louie Talan, bassist of Razorback, Pinikpikan and Spy and also a record producer and engineer at his own Wombworks Studio, remembers learning to play the guitar by reading Jingle Chordbook magazine. Then he honed his skills by jamming with friends.

Francis Reyes, lead guitarist of The Dawn and deejay at NU 107, was also self-taught and researched a lot from the school library in La Salle. "I've learned that the measure of a guitarist is his sense of rhythm," he shared. "I noticed that kids today, *nagmamadaling mag*-adlib. But the guitar solo is just icing [on the cake]."

For Jerico Salonga Fernando, whose parents established the JB Music chain 30 years ago, the whole shebang is a worthwhile investment. He said he'd like the kids to be proponents of OPM, if not the next generation of professionals who'll get to travel the world as musicians. "For now," Fernando said, "I want them to experience how it feels to play with rock stars."

A 'happy' 25 years

From page K1

to former actor Aljon Jimenez, with whom she has two sons, Kyle and Kirk.

"*Kung ano ang nasa loob mo, nag-re*-reflect *'yon* on how you deal with people… how you weigh things. Since I am happy in my marriage, *ang pakikitungo ko sa mga tao* and the way I handle things, *maganda*," Manilyn told the INQUIRER on Wednesday.

During the interview, Manilyn sat beside her husband. Aljon recounted: "*Nu'ng kinasal kami, sa* peak *siya ng* career *niya. Nagkaroon kami ng anak* so *nawala siya sa* limelight, *nag*-focus *siya sa* family. That's one thing good about her. She set priorities."

To celebrate her 25th year in the biz, Manilyn will take the concert stage in "Manilyn Live@25" on Oct. 27 at the Aliw Theater. The show will feature her former male co-stars Janno Gibbs, Ogie Alcasid and Keempee de Leon.

The show is also her reunion of sorts with Al Quinn, director of "Manilyn Live!" on TV in the early '90s. Also involved in the project is Tats Faustino, musical director for most of Manilyn's previous concerts and TV shows. Aljon is co-producing the concert.

She is currently a regular on GMA-7's top-rating soap "Marimar."

She has a few more wishes as an actress: serious roles, for one. "People still think of me as the kid from Cebu *na nag-artista. Gusto kong mag*-graduate *na sa mga pa*-cute *na* roles."

Ravelos: No exclusive deal…

From page K1

Vhong is the fourth actor to play Lastikman. Von Serna wore the black-and-green costume in 1958, Vic Sotto in 2003, and Mark Bautista in 2004.

Ravelo is also the creator of drama narratives "Roberta," "Trudis Liit," "Maruja" and "Basahang Ginto."

He also created "Bondying" and "Facifica Falayfay" and wrote "Wanted Perfect Mother."

"Lastikman" co-stars Dawn Zulueta, Cherie Gil, Iya Villania, Tonton Gutierrez, Archie Alemania, Jairus Aquino and Jayson Abalos, among others. The series is directed by Chito Roño, Jerome Pobocan and Tots Mariscal.

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GLORIETTA	I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU	I NOW PONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY	RESIDENT EVIL: EXTINCTION GUARANTEED SEATS	SHOOT 'EM UP	THE BRAVE ONE	NO RESERVATIONS	JOSHUA
GREENBELT	I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU	RESIDENT EVIL: EXTINCTION					
GREENBELT	NO RESERVATIONS GUARANTEED SEATS	RESIDENT EVIL: EXTINCTION GUARANTEED SEATS	JOSHUA GUARANTEED SEATS	SHOOT 'EM UP GUARANTEED SEATS	I NOW PONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY GUARANTEED SEATS		
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	RESIDENT EVIL. EXTINCTION	NO RESERVATIONS	I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU	ROGUE ASSASIN	ROGUE ASSASIN		
AYALA CENTER CEBU	RESIDENT EVIL: EXTINCTION	I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU	I NOW PONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY	DAYWATCH			
MARKET! MARKET!	I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU	I NOW PONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY	ROGUE ASSASIN	RESIDENT EVIL: EXTINCTION	NO RESERVATIONS		
TRINOMA	I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU	ROGUE ASSASIN	I NOW PONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY	NO RESERVATIONS	SHOOT 'EM UP	THE BRAVE ONE	RESIDENT EVIL: EXTINCTION GUARANTEED SEATS

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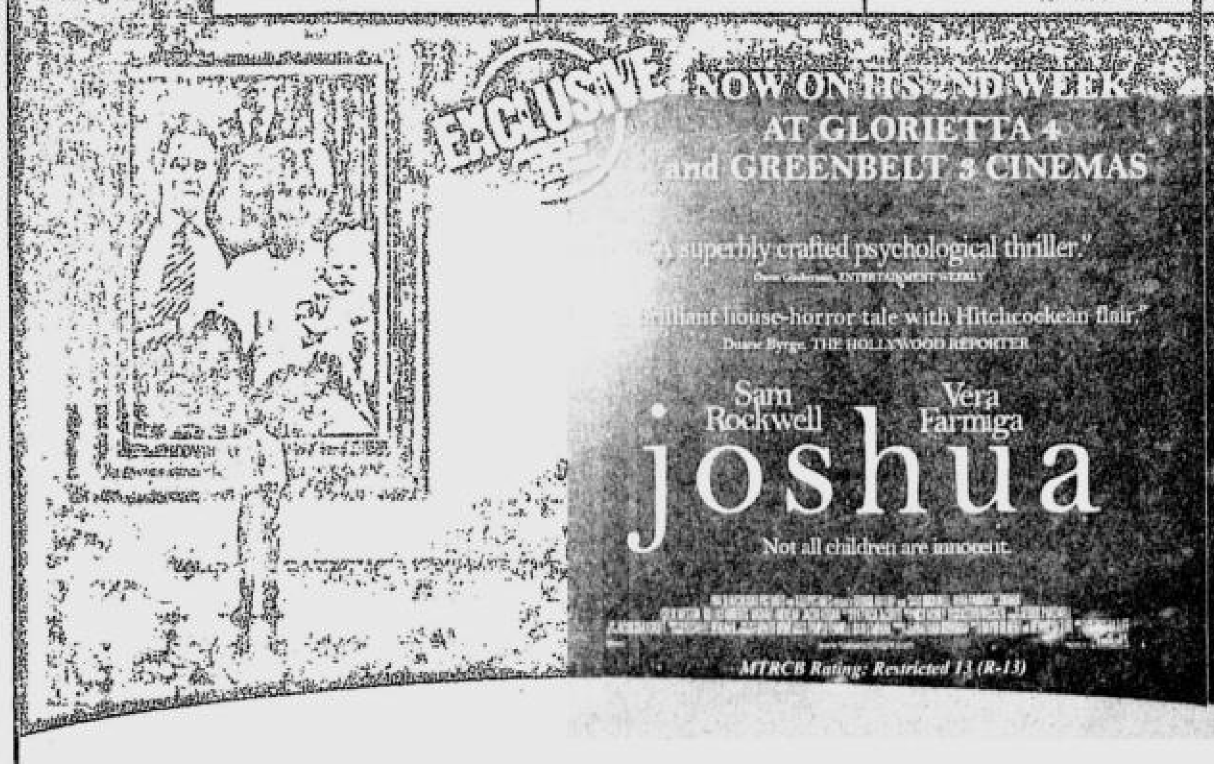
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	Town Cheers Competition September 22 & 23, 2007 at the Activity Center
AYALA CENTER CEBU	Elliot Yamin of American Idol Live! September 26; 6 pm; OnStage (Cinema 1)
MARKET! MARKET!	Toyota Showcase September 28 to 30, 2007; at the Activity Center
OnStage	Repertory Philippines presents LOVE'S LABOUR'S LOST September [illegible] to October [illegible], 2007
Ayala MUSEUM	FORMS & SPACES: An Exhibition by [illegible] September 10 to 27, 2007 [illegible]
TriNoma	Mother [illegible]are Exhibit September 16 to 30; 10 am to 9 pm; Restoration Area, Level 3



EXCLUSIVE
NOW ON ITS 2ND WEEK
AT GLORIETTA 4
and GREENBELT 3 CINEMAS
"A superbly crafted psychological thriller."
ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY
"Brilliant house-horror tale with Hitchcockean flair."
Duane Byrge, THE HOLLYWOOD REPORTER
Sam Rockwell Vera Farmiga
joshua
Not all children are innocent.
MTRCB Rating: Restricted 13 (R-13)

Catch American Idol finalist Elliott Yamin in a live concert at the Ayala Malls!
TriNoma Activity Center September 21 7:00pm
Glorietta Activity Center September 22 7:00pm
Market! Market! Activity Center September 23 6:00pm
Ayala Center Cebu On Stage September 26 6:00pm
Alabang Town Center Activity Center September 28 6:30pm
glorietta GREENBELT TOWN AYALA CENTER CEBU MARKET! MARKET! TriNoma

DIRECTOR David Cronenberg jokes that Viggo Mortensen, R, and Vincent Cassel are the "hot couple" in "Eastern Promises," a drama thriller about the Russian mob in London.

Viggo shows everything in this nude fight scene

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Ruben V. Nepales

LOS ANGELES—DAVID CRONENBERG'S "Eastern Promises" is earning critical raves but what's stirring buzz about the film is **Viggo Mortensen**'s nude fight scene which lasts for at least four minutes.

In a London Turkish bath, the completely naked actor—Aragorn in "The Lord of the Rings"—lets it all hang loose, so to speak, as he fights two fully-clothed assassins. Like the rest of the film, the scene is breathtakingly realistic. Viggo and David, reunited after their triumphant team-up in "A History of Violence," are successful again in this drama-thriller about the Russian mob in the UK capital.

Viggo plays Nikolai, a driver for this mafia family headed by Semyon (**Armin Mueller-Star**) who masks his criminal activities by acting as the genial owner of a restaurant. Semyon's gay son, Kirill (**Vincent Cassel**), is the mob clan's enforcer who hides his sexuality in this tough environment but is attracted to Nikolai. **Naomi Watts** plays a midwife whose involvement with a teenage prostitute who dies while giving birth to a baby leads her to cross paths with Nikolai and the crime family.

Viggo, David and Naomi talked to us in Toronto about the film, which won the Audience Award as the top movie in the recent film festival in Ontario's capital.

David, the silver-haired creator of graphically violent but superb films, explained how Viggo's nude scene against knife-wielding attackers in a steam bath came about. "It was a very simple conversation," said the filmmaker. "We were working out the fight choreography. Viggo said, 'It's obvious that I am going to have to do this naked.' I said, 'Great,' and that was it... because if he had the towel wrapped around him for the whole fight, that would be silly and not realistic."

Grueling work

David added, "If I had to worry about showing or not showing things, that would restrict the way we could flow the scene. I wanted it to be very grueling, hard work and physical. I wanted it to be very realistic in terms of the physiology.

Another provocative scene shows Viggo's Nikolai having sex (with an actress playing one of the women forced by the mob into prostitution) in a brothel while Vince's Kirill watches intently. David quipped, "We were joking all the time. We said Vincent and Viggo are the hot couple in this movie, really (laughter)."

The director explained, "We all understood the undertones. We knew that Kirill (Vincent) is in love with Nikolai (Viggo) and that he can't admit that he's gay because in that environment, that's like a death sentence. But Viggo's character knows this so he flirts with him and manipulates him. There was that kind of humor going on all the time."

Naomi, for her part, told us: "Viggo and Vincent are such powerful actors. They were so connected to their characters. In their scenes together, they had great chemistry." She joked, "I'm glad they fell in love on the set (laughter)."

Viggo, who is as laid-back and soft-spoken as his director, said his decision to slug it out *au naturel* and do other challenging scenes in "Eastern Promises" was all based on trust.

Akward and vulnerable

"Trust is the most important thing," he said. "Without trust, you can't relax and you don't feel secure about exploring as an actor. I knew that bathhouse scene would be a little more difficult to do than other scenes and that it would be physically painful (laughter) but I am very happy to be in David's hands."

If violence does not permeate Viggo's recent films, it would not be a topic at all to discuss with him. A quiet, calm man, Viggo has published books and CDs of his poems and photos on Perceval Press, which he founded. He paints and enjoys poetry readings.

At one point in our press con, he said, "I'm interested in collecting as much experience as I can because I don't know what happens afterward."

Animal lover

After the interview, he gave away copies of a CD titled "Time Waits for Everyone," with his name underneath. Back home, we played the CD, expecting to hear Viggo reciting his poems. But surprise, surprise, it's him playing his compositions in a classical vein on a grand piano.

A lover of animals, especially horses, Viggo is given to talking about topics like crows. He is also fond of them. He ties their presence to good or bad luck, depending on how many they are or how they come to him. He narrated how the wins of San Lorenzo, his favorite football team in Argentina (where he grew up), coincided with the appearance of wounded crows in front of his LA home. And of how he gently picked up these birds and brought them to the vet.

'Demon researcher'

Described as "demon researcher" by David for his intense preparation for a role, Viggo met some ex-Russian criminals and read books, including one on symbolic tattoos, to portray Nikolai. This book, "Russian Criminal Tattoo," came in handy for a scene in which Viggo is inducted into the criminal brotherhood and tattooed (it's another scene not meant for the faint of heart).

As a result of his research, this man who is fluent in at least four languages learned to speak his lines not just in a broad Russian accent but one that is very specific to the region where his character supposedly comes from. "I didn't have to go to Russia [to do research on my character]," he said but he did fly to Moscow and went to remote places.

Asked how women influence his life, Viggo, who turns 49 next month, laughed and declared, "I'm my mother's son which should say enough, I guess." He is divorced from Exene Cervenka, founder of the punk band X, with whom he has a son, Henry, who is now a teenager.

Different high

As to what he looks for in a woman (ladies, we finally get to the most important topic), the man considered as "the thinking woman's sex symbol" said, "Somebody who's straightforward with me. And I like to hear what they have to say. I don't think you ever really get to know anyone completely. So there's always going to be a leap of faith in any relationship, whether it's family or an intimate relationship. That's where trust comes in. You just have to assume that what you don't know isn't going to hurt you (laughter). And that you respect the person enough to allow them to have their mystery, and they respect you enough to keep yours."

On the different high he gets from movies and poetry readings, Viggo explained, "In the case of movies... you really don't know what the reaction of the people will be. It has another life. With a poem that you wrote and read publicly, there's something that happens in the air between you and the people, just as there is something between the screen and the audience that provokes questions that you don't expect. The movie is done but with poems, I've often changed them — shortened them, based on the feeling I had while reading them."

Will we ever see him in a comedy someday? With a smile, he replied, "There's a lot of money involved in making a movie. With the parts that they normally give to **Will Ferrell**, I don't think they go, 'Well, if we can't get Will, we have to call Viggo (laughter).' It would be fun to try sometime, I guess."

With the interview done, he got something from his bag. It was the banner flag of his beloved San Lorenzo team. He draped himself with the flag as he posed for pictures.

E-mail the columnist at rvnepales_5585@yahoo.com and read his blog, "The Nepales Report," on www.inquirerbloggers.net/nepalesreport.

MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION
MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING

SHANG CINEPLEX
1 (DOLBY) NO RESERVATIONS
2 (DOLBY) RESIDENT EVIL 3
3 (DOLBY) CHUCK & LARRY
4 (DOLBY) I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
PREMIERE
THE BRAVE ONE

CINEMA 2000
Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216
1 RESIDENT EVIL - 3
2 NO RESERVATIONS
3 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
4 CHUCK & LARRY

starmall EDSA-SHAW
(Mandaluyong) tel. 7268150
3 RESIDENT EVIL - 3
4 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
5 PLEASE CALL

metropolis star
(ALABANG) tel. 8504285, 8433994
1 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
2 ROGUE ASSASIN
3 RESIDENT EVIL - 3
4 NO RESERVATIONS

THEATRES
1 SKINWALKERS
2 NANCY DREW
3 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU

PACIFIC MALL LUCENA CINEMAGIC
Pacific Mall Lucena Tel (042) 660 6271
1 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
2 DAY WATCH
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
1 CHUCK & LARRY
2 RESIDENT EVIL - 3
3 NO RESERVATIONS
4 UNDERDOG
5 RESIDENT EVIL - 3
6 RESIDENT EVIL - 3
7 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
8 SHOOT THEM UP
9 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
10 ROGUE ASSASIN

Blue Wave MARIKINA
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sto. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341927
1 (DOLBY) RESIDENT EVIL - 3
2 (DOLBY) I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
3 (DOLBY) NO RESERVATIONS
4 (DOLBY) RESERVED

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
tel 7334228
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
5 RESIDENT EVIL - 3

MARKET!MARKET! / MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856 -
1 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
2 PLEASE CALL
3 1408
4 UNDERDOG

Maragana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274
1 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
2 RESIDENT EVIL - 3
3 NO RESERVATIONS

Center Mall Cinema
Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel (074) - (4449348)
1 NANCY DREW
2 LAST LEGION

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
2 SKINWALKERS
3 THE BRAVE ONE
4 CHUCK & LARRY

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
2 EVAN ALLMIGHTY

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City) tel 687.6163 or 72
1 CHUCK & LARRY
2 RESIDENT EVIL - 3
3 NO RESERVATIONS
4 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU

CINEMA 2000
Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 I KNOW WHO KILL ME
2 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
3 RISE
4

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Binan) tel. (049) 4111146
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 LAST LEGION
2 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
3 THE INVASION

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 DISTURBIA
2 I KNOW WHO KILL ME
3 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
4 DAY WATCH

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320
1 DAY WATCH
2 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
3 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Gapan) tel. (044) 4867736
1 ZOMBIES
2 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU

Lianas Cinema
(Pasig) tel 640.4748
1 PLEASE CALL
2

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 HOST
2 KIROT SA DIBDIB
3 LIBERATED
4 SHOOT THEM UP

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 RISE
2 KIRIDA
3 IVE FALLEN FOR YOU
4 TUKSO SI CHARITO
5 SHOOT THEM UP

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 PILYA
2 DAY WATCH
3 I KNOW WHO KILL ME
4 DISTURBIA

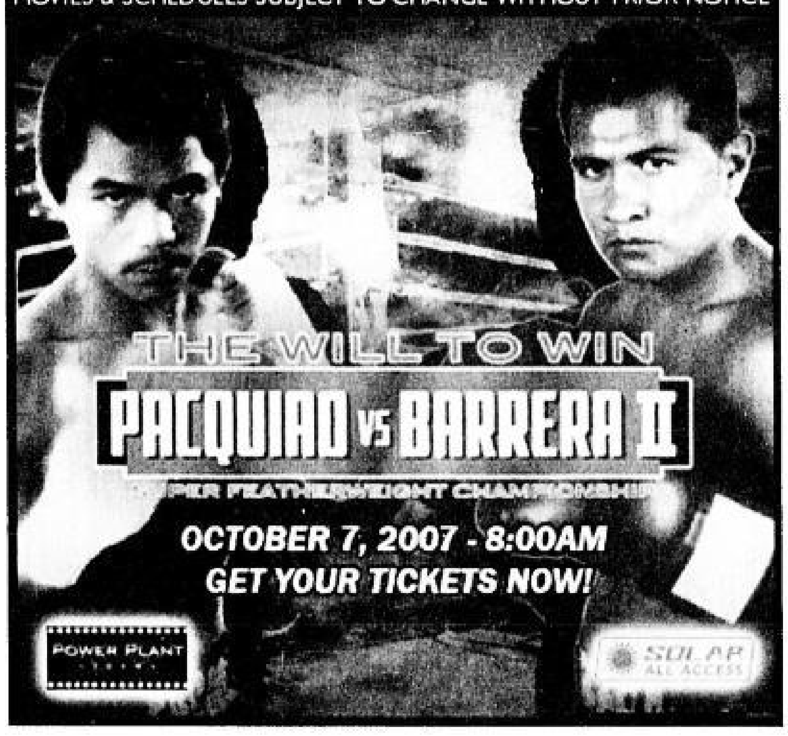
Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 PLEASE CALL
2

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

POWER PLANT
CINEMA
ROCKWELL CENTER, MAKATI TEL: 898-1440/41
DOLBY DIGITAL

SHOOT 'EM UP R13 2:00,4:00,6:00, 8:00,10:00	RESIDENT EVIL: EXTINCTION R13 1:50,4.00,6:10, 8:20,10:30	I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY - R13 12:30,3:00,5:30, 8:00,10:30
I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU G 1:30,3:40,5:50, 8:00,10:10	NO RESERVATIONS G 1:35,3:55,6:15	NO RESERVATIONS G 1:05,3:25,5:45, 8:05,10:30

MOVIES & SCHEDULES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE



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$24,168,865
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NOW SHOWING
We have witnessed the BEGINNING...
We have seen the APOCALYPSE...
Now we face EXTINCTION.
MILLA JOVOVICH
RESIDENT EVIL: EXTINCTION

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Alabang, Muntinlupa City
☎ 8424503 ☎ 8506465 Fax 8506465

Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF ISABELA
Ilagan
OFFICE OF THE BIDS & AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY & TO BID

The Provincial Government of Isabela, through its Bids & Awards Commitee (BAC), invites the following:

I. FOR CIVIL WORKS - Contractors registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for eligibility, and if found eligible, to bid for the hereunder contract:

SCHOOL BUILDINGS

NAME OF PROJECT	LOCATION	ABC	BIDDING FEE
2 CL - San Miguel Elem. School	Ramon, Isabela	P 854,000.00	P 1,000.00
2 CL - Mabbayad Elem. School	Echague, Isabela	P 854,000.00	P 1,000.00
2 CL - Calnaoan Elem. School	Sto. Tomas, Isabela	P 854,000.00	P 1,000.00
2 CL - Lupigue Elem. School	Ilagan, Isabela	P 854,000.00	P 1,000.00
2 CL - Dona Josefa E.M.H.S.	Cordon, Isabela	P 813,000.00	P 1,000.00
Repair: Tumauini Nat'l H.S. - 2 Buildings	Tumauini, Isabela	P 292,000.00	P 500.00
Completion of 2 CL Alibagu Elem. School	Alibagu, Ilagan, Isabela	P 260,000.00	P 500.00

BRIDGES

NAME OF PROJECT	LOCATION	ABC	BIDDING FEE
DIETBAN BRIDGE	Angadanan, Isabela	P 6,540,000.00	P 6,500.00
BANNAGAO BRIDGE	Aurora, Isabela	P 7,641,000.00	P 7,600.00
VILLA LUZ BRIDGE	Delfin Albano, Isabela	P 400,000.00	P 500.00
BACNOR BRIDGE	Burgos, Isabela	P 180,000.00	P 500.00
SIFFU BOX CULVERT	Ilagan, Isabela	P 425,000.00	P 500.00
CAB. 14-16 BOX CULVERT	Ilagan, Isabela	P 425,000.00	P 500.00

OTHER STRUCTURES

NAME OF PROJECT	LOCATION	ABC	BIDDING FEE
DSWD WOMEN'S QUARTER (completion)	Capitol Compound, Alibagu Ilagan, Isabela	P 769,000.00	P 1,000.00
REPAIR of ISABELA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF BUILDING	Capitol Compound, Alibagu, Ilagan, Isabela	P 723,000.00	P 1,000.00

Prospective bidders should possess a valid PCAB License applicable to the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least 50% of the ABC, and have key personnel and equipment (listed in the Eligibility Forms) available for the prosecution of the contract. The BAC will use non-discretionary pass fail criteria in the Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids. The BAC will conduct post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid.

SCHEDULE OF BIDDING ACTIVITIES

BAC ACTIVITIES	SCHEDULE
1. Receipt from prospective bidders of Letters of Intent (LOI) including application for eligibility	October 02-05, 2007
2. Issuance of Eligibility Forms	October 02-05, 2007
3. Receipt of Eligibility requirements	October 8-10, 2007
4. Notice of Results of Eligibility Check	October 12, 2007
5. Issuance of Bid Documents	October 15-19, 2007
6. Pre-Bid Conference	October 23, 2007
7. Receipt and Opening of Bids	On or before 10:00 AM, November 5, 2007 at the Governor's Mini-Conference Hall, Capitol, Alibagu, Ilagan, Isabela

The BAC will issue to prospective bidders Eligibility Forms at BAC Secretariat Office, Capitol, Alibagu, Ilagan, Isabela, upon their submission of LOI and Application for Eligibility, and upon their payment of a non-refundable amount of Five Hundred Pesos (P 500.00) per project to the Provincial Treasurer's Office. Prospective bidders shall submit the Eligibility Requirements to the BAC at the said address. They may also obtain the results of the Eligibility Check by the BAC at the same address.

The BAC will issue Bidding Documents only to bidders declared by the BAC to be eligible for the bidding upon payment of a non-refundable amount of appropriate BIDDING FEE as mentioned above to the Provincial Treasurer's Office.

II. FOR GOODS - Distributors, wholesalers and/or suppliers in the pre-eligibility *activity and to participate in the sealed competitive bidding for the procurement of **CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS** for **VARIOUS INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS**.*

SCHEDULE OF BIDDING ACTIVITIES:

Availability of Bid Documents	October 3-5, 2007, 8 AM to 5 PM at the BAC Secretariat's Office, Capitol, Ilagan, Isabela.
Pre-Bid Conference	October 9, 2007 at 10 AM, Governor's Mini-Conference Hall, Capitol, Ilagan, Isabela
Deadline of Submission of Eligibility Requirements and Bids	October 26, 2007 at 10:00 AM, BAC Secretariat's Office, Capitol, Ilagan, Isabela
Opening of Bids	October 26, 2007 at 10:30 AM, Governor's Mini-Conference Hall, Capitol, Ilagan, Isabela
Approved Budget Contract	P 8,051,555.00

Complete set of bid proposals/forms may be acquired from the BAC Secretariat's Office, Capitol, Ilagan, Isabela upon payment of non-refundable fee of EIGHT THOUSAND PESOS (Php 8,000.00) at the Provincial Treasurer's Office.

All particulars relative to the Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of RA 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The Provincial Government of Isabela reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any required formality and award the contract to the bidder whose proposal has been evaluated by the BAC as the most advantageous to the Provincial Government and the right to confiscate the bid bond and/or pursue appropriate legal action should the winning bidder refuse to accept the award.

Further, the Provincial Government assumes no obligations whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidder for any expense or loss that they may incur in this undertaking nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) **MA. THERESA ARANETA-FLORES**
BAC Chairperson

(PDI--Sept. 28, 2007)

CAMARINES SUR III ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
(CASURECO III)
San Isidro, Iriga City
Fax No. (054) 299-2382

INVITATION TO BID

The Camarines Sur III Electric Cooperative, Inc. (CASURECO III) per requisite of Coop policies on Pre-Qualifications, and Bids and Awards invites all interested Bidders/Suppliers to apply for pre-qualification/eligibility and to bid for the Supply of:

A.	**2,000 units of KWH METER (VAT inclusive)** CLs 2.0, 2W, 240 Volts, TA: 10(30) Electromechanical	
B.	**ELECTRICAL MATERIALS:**	
	1) Duplex wire # 6	10,000 mtrs.
	2) Duplex Wire # 2	2,000 mtrs.
	3) TW Wire # 8	8 rolls
C.	**Plastic Seal (Security seal)**	10,000 pcs.
D.	**Plastic box**	10,000 pcs.
E.	**Wood Screw 1/2x8**	10 gross (box)

Submission of Pre-Qualification Requirements shall not be later than 5:00 PM on October 11, 2007 and no documents shall be accepted thereafter. Only those who will be qualified will be allowed to participate in the bidding.

***BIDDING** will be conducted at **1:00 pm** on **October 12, 2007**. Pre-bid conference will be on **October 11, 2007 @ 1:00 pm** coop function room. Sealed bid in duplicate copies should be submitted to the BIDS and AWARDS COMMITTEE on or before 1:00 PM of **October 12, 2007**. Five (5%) percent Bidders bond is required as a matter of policy, non-refundable bidding fee of P3,000.00.*

CASURECO III reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or informality therein, or accept any bid or offer which it may consider to be advantageous and beneficial to CASURECO III.

(Sgd.) JOCELYN A. ORCINE
BAC Chairman

Noted by:

(Sgd.) ENGR. PEDRO M. PRESTADO, JR.
General Manager

(PDI – September 24 & 28, 2007)

SECTION I. INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID (IAETB)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
PHILIPPINE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION CENTER (PICC)

**SUPPLY OF EQUIPMENT, LABOR, AND MATERIALS FOR:
LOT A – REHABILITATION OF AHU S-31B, UPGRADING OF SUPPLY AND RETURN DUCT AIR FLOW OF AHU S-31A and B;
and LOT B – REPLACEMENT OF AHU S-27 SERVING MEETING ROOMS 2 AND 3**

The PHILIPPINE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION CENTER (PICC), through its Approved Budget for CY 2007 intend to apply the sums of: a) **ONE MILLION SEVENTY-FIVE THOUSAND PESOS (P1,075,000.00)**; and b) **ONE MILLION SIX HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND PESOS (P1,650,000.00), VAT inclusive**, being the Approved Budgets for the Contract (ABC) to payments for the above-mentioned procurement. Bids in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act No. 9184, otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act. Only bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The bidder with the lowest calculated bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness to the technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

Prospective bidders are required to download the Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid from Phil-GEPS website. The BAC will issue hard copies of the bid documents upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of **TWO THOUSAND PESOS (P2,000.00)**. The method of payment will be in cash. The bidding documents shall be received personally by the respective bidder or his authorized representative.

Interested bidders may obtain further information from the BAC Secretariat of the PICC and inspect the bidding documents at the address given below anytime during office hours from **October 1 to 10, 2007**.

The PICC-BAC will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on **October 11, 2007 at 11:00 a.m.** at the Cafeteria area, 2nd floor, Secretariat Building, PICC, CCP Complex, Pasay City.

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below at or before 10:00 a.m., **October 23, 2007**. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form of (cash/Manager's/Cashier's check) in the amount equivalent to one percent (1%) of the ABC or if surety bond, in the amount equivalent to 2.5% of the ABC. In case of partial bids, bid security shall be as follows:

For Lot A:
P10,750.00 if paid in cash, Manager's or Cashier's check; or P26,875.00 if posted by way of a surety bond issued by GSIS or any of the PICC accredited insurance companies, callable upon demand;

For Lot B:
P16,500.00 if paid in cash, manager's/Cashier's check; or P41,250.00 if posted by way of a surety bond issued by GSIS or any of the PICC accredited insurance companies, callable upon demand.

Bid opening shall be on **October 23, 2007, at 10:00 a.m.**, at the Cafeteria area, PICC, CCP Complex, Pasay City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend.

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE (BAC)
PHILIPPINE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION CENTER
(02) 551-8230 or 551-7920 loc. 7855

(Sgd.) **VICTORIA C. BERCILES**
BAC Chairperson

(PDI – Sept. 28, 2007)

KAMAYAN REALTY CORPORATION
INVITATION TO BID

The Kamayan Realty Corporation (KRC), a subsidiary of the National Development Company (NDC), offers for sale the following parcels of land in CASH and on an "AS-IS-WHERE-IS" basis:

LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	MINIMUM BID
METRO MANILA		
1. Jose Abad Santos Ave., Tondo, Manila	551.2 sq. meters (TCT No. 118795) former gasoline station	P 15,433,600
BICOL		
2. Lakandula Drive, Gogon, Legazpi City	11,996 sq. meters (TCT Nos. 15337, 15338 & 15339) former gasoline station and depot	P 53,742,080
CEBU		
3. M. J. Cuenco Ave., Brgy. Mabolo, Cebu City	9,767 sq. meters (TCT No. 83347) former warehouse	P 44,908,640
CAGAYAN DE ORO		
4. Corrales St. Extension, Macabalan District, Cagayan de Oro City	2,778 sq. meters (TCT No. 19348) former office and depot	P 31,113,600

Interested parties may register and secure Bidding Guidelines upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P500.00 from October 1-5, 2007 at:

The Secretariat
Bids, Auction and Awards Committee
Kamayan Realty Corporation
c/o National Development Company
6th Floor NDC Building, 116 Tordesillas St.,
Salcedo Village, Makati City
Tel. Nos. (632) 840-1330, 840-4838 loc. 213 & 265

A pre-bid conference shall be held on October 23, 2007 at 9:30 AM at the Audio Visual Room, Alberto B. Barretto Hall, NDC Building.

Bids shall be accompanied by 10% bid bond and submitted between 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM of October 26, 2007 labeled and addressed as follows:

The Chairman
Bids, Auction and Awards Committee
Kamayan Realty Corporation
c/o National Development Company
6th Floor, NDC Bldg., 116 Tordesillas St.,
Salcedo Village, Makati City
CODE: *Location of Property*

The opening of bids is scheduled on October 26, 2007 at 2:01 PM at the Audio Visual Room, Alberto B. Barretto Hall, NDC Building, in the presence of all bidder(s) and/or their authorized representative(s).

KRC reserves the right to reject any and all bids or to waive any of the formalities required, or accept only such bids which are deemed advantageous to KRC.

(Sgd.) SATURNINO H. MEJIA
Chairman BAAC

(PDI-Sept. 28, 29 & 30, 2007)

REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
KAGAWARAN NG KATARUNGAN
PANGASIWAAN SA PATALAAN NG LUPAIN
(LAND REGISTRATION AUTHORITY)
East Avenue cor. NIA Road
Quezon City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
Delivery of Desktop Computers

The Land Registration Authority (LRA), through FY 2007 General Appropriations Act (GAA) R.A. 9401 intends to apply the sum of **PESOS: TWO MILLION FOUR HUNDRED THOUSAND (P2,400,000.00)** being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the delivery of 80 Desktop Computers to the Land Registration Authority (LRA) located at LRA Building, East Avenue corner NIA road, Diliman, Quezon City. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall automatically be rejected at Bid opening.

The Land Registration Authority now invites eligible Bidders for the delivery of 80 Desktop Computers (Branded) with the following specifications:

- Intel Core 2 Duo E4400, 2Mb L2 Cache, 800Mhz FSB
- Intel Chipset LGA775 Board with integrated INTEL/ATI Graphics, 10/100Mbps LAN, 6 Ch Audio, 4 USB Ports, 1 PCI-E, 3 PCI
- 512Mb DDR2
- 80Gb Seagate SATA Hard Disk Drive
- DVD+RW Drive
- 1.44Mb 3.5" Diskette Drive
- 56 Kbps V90 PCI Modem
- Mid-Tower Chassis with Power Supply
- 15" LCD Monitor
- Optical Mouse PS2/USB
- Ergonomic keyboard
- 500 Watts AVR
- Microsoft Windows XP Service Pack 2 OEM
- Software/Driver CDs
- Warranty
  - 3 years warrant for parts and labor
  - 3 years onsite warranty within Metro Manila

Delivery of said desktop computers shall be within thirty (30) working days from receipt of an approved purchase order. The description of an eligible bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184, otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorship, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights to Filipino citizen pursuant to Republic Act 5183 and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for eligibility check is described in Section II of the bidding documents ITB. The bidder with the lowest calculated bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the Land Registration Authority and inspect the Bidding documents at the address given below from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders on October 8 to October 12, 2007 from the address below and upon payment of non-refundable fee in the amount of One Thousand Pesos (P1,000.00). The method of payment will be on a cash basis. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

The Land Registration Authority will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties at the 5th Floor Multi-Purpose Hall, LRA Building on October 23, 2007.

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered at the 5th Floor, Multi-Purpose Hall, LRA Building on November 5, 2007. All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form and amount indicated in the Bidding Documents. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

Bid opening shall be at the 5th Floor, Multi-Purpose Hall, LRA Building on November 5, 2007. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.

The Land Registration Authority reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd.) EDILBERTO R. FELICIANO
Chairman
LRA Bids and Awards Committee on
Procurement of Goods, Supplies and Materials
East Avenue corner NIA Road, Diliman, Quezon City

(PDI – September 28, 2007)

IT Specialists

The USAID-funded MCA-PTP Technical Assistance Project, has an urgent need for six (6) Production Support Assistants to assist in the Nationwide Rollout of Computerized Systems Project implemented by the BIR. The successful candidates will be needed for an initial period of at least six months. The Production Support Assistants (PSA) should have the following qualifications:

a) extensive experience with Oracle version 7.3 up and Oracle Report Writer;
b) strong computer operations background;
c) skilled in the use of SQL + and SQL Forms;
d) functional knowledge of the tax business area is desired, but not essential.

The PSA shall perform the following functions:

- assist the BIR's Project Team in implementing the Integrated Tax System (ITS) Rollouts;
- assist the BIR Data Center in maintaining the existing ITS applications and in responding to requests for assistance from the ITS users of newly-connected sites;
- do the necessary program fixes in response to help desk calls;
- submit periodic reports to BIR and the MCA-PTP TAP.

Interested applicants should submit their most recent CV to Mr. Jene Aliwalas, Component Manager RATE, Millennium Challenge Account – Philippines Threshold Program Technical Assistance Project at **mpastrana@msi-mca.com** or at Room 2302, 23Fl Sedeno, corner Valero Sts. Salcedo Village, Makati City 1227 Tel. Nos. 887-7412; 887-7467 to 69.

For your Classified Ads requirements:

HEAD OFFICE
897-8808 loc. 514, 516; 899-4425; 899-4427; 897-8425 (Telefax)

CUBAO
912-9008 to 11 (Aurora)

MAKATI
892-5578; 811-4361; 811-4370

KALAW
528-0213; 527-3342

MEGAMALL
635-0219; 635-0220

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Home Guaranty Corp. A10
National Development Company A11
DOLE-NCR B6
DOLE Region IV B6

Looking For Unit & House For Rent

Unit @ Pacific Plaza Tower "The Fort" Makati
(Budget is 180k fully furnish)
House @ Dasma. Vill.
(Loc. Makati/Budget 200k)
Please contact:
09157715800 / 09273172331

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

This is to inform the public that **C/O RONALD A. DABLEO** is no longer connected with **SENATOR CREWING (MANILA), INC.** effective Oct. 31, 2006. Any transactions entered into after the said date will not be honored by Senator Crewing (Manila), Inc.

(PDI--Sept. 28, 2007)

Notice of Loss

Notice is hereby given of the loss of Pancake House, Inc. Stock Certificate No. 370 covering 1,000,000 shares in the name of Lourdes Beatrice L. Benitez.

Should no one contest on or before Sept. 28, 2007, a new stock certificate will be issued to replace the lost certificate.

(PDI--Sept. 14, 21 & 28, 2007)

WAREHOUSE FOR LEASE

Area	1,257.50 square meters (A - 628.75; B - 628.75)
Location	2nd Street corner Tacoma Port Area, Manila

FEATURES:
Flood free, 35 feet high cemented floor
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With front and back doors (A & B)
Parking available, no truck ban
Perimeter fence and lights
Berthing space available
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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
COMMISSION ON AUDIT
Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City

FINANCIAL REPORTS OF 77 PROVINCES AND 115 CITIES

Fiscal Year 2006

(in thousand pesos)

PROVINCES

Local Government Units	Class	Balance Sheet			Statement of Income and Expenses									
		Total Assets	Total Liabilities	Total Equity	Total Income	Rank		Total Expenses	Rank		Net Income (Net Loss)	Rank		% of Net Income (Net Loss) to Total Income
						1	2		1	2		1	2	
Region 1		6,021,113	1,201,317	4,819,796	3,169,066			2,623,173			545,893			17
Ilocos Norte	1	1,031,935	199,683	832,252	577,058	33	4	538,732	27	2	38,325	65	4	7
Ilocos Sur	1	2,610,345	466,141	2,144,203	594,065	30	3	520,258	28	3	73,807	45	3	12
La Union	1	643,553	151,211	492,341	635,144	28	2	516,087	29	4	119,057	30	2	19
Pangasinan	1	1,735,281	384,281	1,350,999	1,362,800	6	1	1,048,096	8	1	314,704	4	1	23
Cordillera Administrative Region		2,295,745	657,748	1,637,997	2,079,856			1,758,832			321,024			15
Abra	3	418,330	124,332	293,998	468,786	52	1	425,290	41	1	43,497	63	5	9
Apayao	4	497,113	215,832	281,281	280,557	71	6	276,798	65	3	3,759	77	6	1
Benguet	2	512,830	106,056	406,774	419,987	58	2	330,493	60	2	89,494	36	1	21
Ifugao	3	331,368	85,954	245,413	301,059	69	4	247,995	69	5	53,065	58	4	18
Kalinga	3	346,773	73,978	272,795	327,064	63	3	267,428	68	4	59,636	55	3	18
Mt. Province	4	189,332	51,596	137,736	282,401	70	5	210,828	72	6	71,573	47	2	25
Region 2		4,915,548	1,274,209	3,641,339	2,818,037			2,090,488			727,549			26
Batanes	5	267,671	99,876	167,795	159,047	77	5	144,818	75	5	14,229	73	4	9
Cagayan	1	1,477,150	349,080	1,128,069	828,990	21	2	624,551	23	2	204,439	12	2	25
Isabela	1	2,038,161	568,305	1,469,856	1,034,328	12	1	638,825	22	1	395,503	2	1	38
Nueva Vizcaya	2	843,665	117,687	725,978	484,481	46	3	376,265	55	3	108,215	31	3	22
Quirino	3	288,901	139,260	149,640	311,191	65	4	306,029	62	4	5,162	76	5	2
Region 3		12,603,147	3,410,975	9,192,172	5,907,668			4,881,423			1,026,244			17
Aurora	3	477,552	78,727	398,825	308,754	66	7	268,567	67	7	40,187	64	7	13
Bataan	1	1,939,360	796,741	1,142,619	850,329	20	4	700,435	18	4	149,894	15	2	18
Bulacan	1	3,191,412	485,538	2,705,874	1,717,603	1	1	1,349,423	1	1	368,179	3	1	21
Nueva Ecija	1	2,391,094	1,104,520	1,286,575	965,571	14	2	876,056	12	2	89,515	35	6	9
Pampanga	1	1,080,944	216,518	864,426	859,808	19	3	723,730	17	3	136,078	22	3	16
Tarlac	1	2,680,714	391,465	2,289,249	733,576	25	5	613,281	25	5	120,295	29	5	16
Zambales	2	842,070	337,465	504,605	472,027	51	6	349,931	58	6	122,096	27	4	26
Region 4		19,738,503	4,536,697	15,201,806	9,080,855			7,179,953			1,900,902			21
Batangas	1	2,499,379	623,709	1,875,670	1,344,679	7	3	1,121,729	5	2	222,951	11	6	17
Cavite	1	2,769,716	420,969	2,348,748	1,392,471	4	1	1,166,901	4	1	225,570	9	4	16
Laguna	1	3,312,349	667,019	2,645,330	1,387,835	5	2	1,099,057	6	3	288,778	5	2	21
Marinduque	4	282,328	65,474	216,854	266,549	72	10	217,247	71	10	49,303	59	9	18
Occidental Mindoro	1	847,318	127,951	719,367	483,592	47	8	421,860	43	8	61,732	54	8	13
Oriental Mindoro	2	1,502,683	122,003	1,380,680	516,440	40	7	489,683	33	7	26,757	71	10	5
Palawan	1	1,976,695	1,012,775	963,920	914,658	16	6	690,486	19	6	224,172	10	5	25
Quezon	1	2,309,619	538,572	1,771,047	1,211,460	10	5	974,686	9	4	236,774	8	3	20
Rizal	1	3,743,354	744,735	2,998,619	1,259,582	8	4	759,088	15	5	500,494	1	1	40
Romblon	3	495,062	213,489	281,572	303,589	68	9	239,217	70	9	64,372	52	7	21
Region 5		5,161,674	1,587,429	3,574,245	3,394,762			2,806,073			588,689			17
Albay	1	1,224,295	202,482	1,021,813	763,037	24	2	494,429	32	2	268,608	7	1	35
Camarines Norte	2	617,654	101,073	516,581	494,291	44	4	399,135	50	5	95,156	34	2	19
Camarines Sur	1	1,555,842	545,967	1,009,875	863,173	18	1	779,056	14	1	84,117	39	3	10
Catanduanes	3	353,509	146,887	206,621	306,052	67	6	272,043	66	6	34,009	68	6	11
Masbate	1	889,788	329,618	560,170	494,935	43	3	433,198	39	3	61,738	53	4	12
Sorsogon	2	520,586	261,402	259,185	473,273	49	5	428,212	40	4	45,061	61	5	10
Region 6		8,610,367	2,459,165	6,151,201	4,359,103			3,799,507			559,596			13
Aklan	2	948,286	417,970	530,315	478,904	48	4	406,392	48	4	72,511	46	4	15
Antique	2	672,111	323,162	348,949	466,443	53	5	401,059	49	5	65,384	51	5	14
Capiz	1	938,214	203,811	734,403	632,446	29	3	507,023	30	3	125,423	24	2	20
Guimaras	4	532,340	89,891	442,449	245,332	73	6	209,193	73	6	36,138	67	6	15
Iloilo	1	2,191,379	454,415	1,736,963	1,059,357	11	2	936,128	10	2	123,229	26	3	12
Negros Occidental	1	3,328,037	969,916	2,358,121	1,476,622	3	1	1,339,711	3	1	136,911	21	1	9
Region 7		14,614,118	1,599,614	13,014,504	2,604,195			2,140,806			463,389			18
Cebu	1	11,904,604	1,096,906	10,807,698	1,620,020	2	1	1,340,125	2	1	279,895	6	1	17
Negros Oriental	1	2,198,245	394,287	1,803,957	805,054	22	2	667,081	21	2	137,973	20	2	17
Siquijor	4	511,269	108,421	402,848	179,122	75	3	133,601	77	3	45,521	60	3	25
Region 8		3,704,283	898,223	2,806,060	3,010,851			2,466,630			544,221			18
Biliran	4	494,614	97,725	396,890	217,351	74	6	162,552	74	6	54,799	57	6	25
Eastern Samar	2	228,006	38,517	189,490	453,050	56	4	386,587	53	4	66,463	50	5	15
Leyte	1	1,544,271	307,986	1,236,285	982,560	13	1	839,962	13	1	142,598	17	1	15
Northern Samar	2	573,534	90,170	483,364	487,753	45	3	407,209	47	2	80,544	41	3	17
Samar	1	326,350	36,092	290,258	511,701	41	2	391,185	51	3	120,517	28	2	24
Southern Leyte	3	537,508	327,734	209,774	358,435	61	5	279,134	64	5	79,301	43	4	22
Region 9		3,347,387	1,310,924	2,036,463	1,963,499			1,687,079			276,420			14
Zamboanga Del Norte	1	1,961,300	635,325	1,325,975	944,967	15	1	887,843	11	1	57,124	56	3	6
Zamboanga Del Sur	1	832,780	511,473	321,308	559,058	36	2	419,933	44	2	139,125	19	1	25
Zamboanga Sibugay	3	553,306	164,126	389,180	459,475	54	3	379,303	54	3	80,172	42	2	17
Region 10		5,940,131	1,409,835	4,530,296	2,913,661			2,413,725			499,936			17
Bukidnon	1	2,054,412	578,110	1,476,301	1,243,758	9	1	1,073,134	7	1	170,624	14	1	14
Camiguin	5	280,522	107,173	173,349	175,972	76	5	139,596	76	5	36,376	66	5	21
Lanao del Norte	2	1,701,496	382,891	1,318,605	472,528	50	3	371,867	57	4	100,661	33	3	21
Misamis Occidental	2	701,513	166,956	534,557	444,395	57	4	375,711	56	3	68,684	48	4	15
Misamis Oriental	2	1,202,188	174,705	1,027,484	577,009	34	2	453,418	35	2	123,591	25	2	21
Region 11		3,454,621	813,696	2,640,925	2,219,352			1,811,016			408,336			18
Compostela Valley	1	1,050,343	215,222	835,122	547,982	37	3	414,245	45	4	133,736	23	1	24
Davao del Norte	1	1,013,158	228,291	784,867	590,081	31	1	505,960	31	1	84,121	38	4	14
Davao del Sur	1	900,792	265,928	634,864	572,881	35	2	467,040	34	2	105,841	32	2	18
Davao Oriental	1	490,327	104,255	386,072	508,407	42	4	423,770	42	3	84,637	37	3	17
Region 12		4,217,576	1,054,409	3,163,167	2,390,097			1,923,663			466,434			20
North Cotabato	1	1,240,811	299,568	941,243	864,300	17	1	683,935	20	1	180,365	13	1	21
Sarangani	2	837,800	188,734	649,066	419,957	59	4	340,961	59	4	78,996	44	3	19
South Cotabato	1	975,267	204,381	770,886	585,767	32	2	445,914	38	3	139,854	18	2	24
Sultan Kudarat	1	1,163,698	361,725	801,973	520,072	39	3	452,852	36	2	67,220	49	4	13
Region 13		2,048,996	600,165	1,448,831	1,714,011			1,441,834			272,176			16
Agusan del Sur	3	1,010,850	310,097	700,753	725,841	26	1	581,424	26	1	144,417	16	1	20
Surigao del Norte	2	582,158	160,913	421,245	457,077	55	3	413,134	46	3	43,943	62	3	10
Surigao del Sur	1	455,988	129,155	326,833	531,092	38	2	447,276	37	2	83,816	40	2	16
Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao		2,398,639	597,253	1,801,386	2,463,707			2,357,885			105,822			4
Basilan	3	728,063	223,491	504,571	317,342	64	5	289,899	63	5	27,443	70	2	9
Lanao del Sur	1	313,595	72,962	240,633	766,660	23	1	756,186	16	1	10,474	75	5	1
Maguindanao	1	891,038	255,225	635,813	645,488	27	2	614,283	24	2	31,205	69	1	5
Sulu	3	185,754	26,623	159,131	402,029	60	3	388,606	52	3	13,423	74	4	3
Tawi-Tawi	4	280,189	18,952	261,237	332,189	62	4	308,912	61	4	23,277	72	3	7
GRAND TOTAL		99,071,845	23,411,658	75,660,187	50,088,719			41,382,087			8,706,632			17

CITIES

Local Government Units	Class	Balance Sheet			Statement of Income and Expenses									
		Total Assets	Total Liabilities	Total Equity	Total Income	Rank		Total Expenses	Rank		Net Income (Net Loss)	Rank		% of Net Income (Net Loss) to Total Income
						1	2		1	2		1	2	
National Capital Region		107,199,199	28,551,165	78,648,033	42,554,046			30,722,620			11,831,426			28
Caloocan	1	6,581,744	2,988,284	3,593,460	2,473,232	6	5	1,687,845	7	6	785,387	5	5	32
Las Piñas	1	2,549,410	351,701	2,197,709	1,223,592	15	13	1,027,282	14	12	196,310	23	11	16
Makati	1	24,078,064	4,887,831	19,190,233	7,691,140	3	3	4,352,515	3	3	3,338,625	1	1	43
Malabon	1	492,979	298,644	194,335	657,725	31	14	644,849	25	14	12,876	109	14	2
Mandaluyong	1	3,072,570	1,512,343	1,560,227	1,783,986	8	7	1,583,824	8	7	200,161	22	10	11
Manila	Special	16,234,635	5,577,684	10,656,951	8,298,759	1	1	6,633,250	1	1	1,665,509	3	3	20
Marikina	1	3,783,437	779,135	3,004,302	1,304,649	13	11	844,988	21	13	459,661	7	6	35
Muntinlupa	1	2,278,612	521,205	1,757,407	1,632,201	9	8	1,339,064	9	8	293,137	10	8	18
Parañaque	1	3,300,115	1,956,198	1,343,917	1,851,090	7	6	1,709,535	6	5	141,555	30	13	8
Pasay	1	4,670,356	1,904,901	2,765,454	1,457,311	11	9	1,251,527	10	9	205,784	20	9	14
Pasig	1	9,873,752	732,094	9,141,658	3,638,816	4	4	2,557,204	5	4	1,081,612	4	4	30
Quezon	Special	24,241,505	4,874,065	19,367,440	7,861,810	2	2	4,927,422	2	2	2,934,388	2	2	37
Taguig	1	2,370,958	1,310,837	1,060,121	1,289,030	14	12	1,099,797	11	10	189,233	24	12	15
Valenzuela	1	3,671,061	856,242	2,814,819	1,390,706	12	10	1,063,516	13	11	327,190	9	7	24
Region 1		4,614,879	1,513,063	3,101,816	2,396,843			2,000,359			396,484			17
Alaminos	5	323,928	65,251	258,677	225,695	105	6	154,381	109	8	71,314	62	3	32
Candon	4	651,242	176,052	475,190	209,566	110	7	168,967	103	6	40,599	94	4	19
Dagupan	2	776,071	375,826	400,245	394,377	59	2	357,482	49	1	36,895	96	5	9
Laoag	3	549,854	117,545	432,309	349,292	68	3	317,837	61	3	31,455	102	6	9
San Carlos	3	484,952	194,509	290,443	309,197	75	4	210,169	89	5	99,029	42	1	32
San Fernando	3	441,153	187,801	253,352	298,204	78	5	284,172	70	4	14,032	108	8	5
Urdaneta	2	1,074,808	312,251	762,557	423,253	52	1	344,489	54	2	78,764	54	2	19
Vigan	5	312,870	83,829	229,042	187,256	113	8	162,862	106	7	24,395	103	7	13
Cordillera Administrative Region		2,219,980	307,484	1,912,496	833,109			565,616			267,493			32
Baguio	1	2,219,980	307,484	1,912,496	833,109	27	1	565,616	30	1	267,493	15	1	32
Region 2		3,441,141	424,269	3,016,872	1,327,515			901,958			425,557			32
Cauayan	4	417,965	163,906	254,059	339,564	71	3	307,213	65	2	32,351	101	3	10
Santiago	1	2,181,451	111,744	2,069,707	642,537	33	1	358,424	47	1	284,112	14	1	44
Tuguegarao	2	841,724	148,619	693,105	345,415	69	2	236,321	82	3	109,094	39	2	32
Region 3		10,797,983	3,507,240	7,290,743	5,155,238			4,204,927			950,311			18
Angeles	1	1,035,172	459,549	575,622	612,628	35	2	554,816	31	1	57,813	74	8	9
Balanga	4	232,134	105,044	127,090	232,255	100	9	230,523	86	9	1,732	114	12	1
Cabanatuan	1	1,070,396	667,829	402,566	604,633	36	3	508,113	35	3	96,519	43	3	16
Gapan	4	320,144	54,536	265,608	226,277	104	10	166,578	105	10	59,699	73	7	26
Malolos	4	174,150	54,843	119,307	364,241	64	7	319,960	60	7	44,281	90	9	12
Olongapo	1	4,145,152	748,120	3,397,032	838,954	25	1	551,314	33	2	287,639	12	1	34
Palayan	5	223,495	55,195	168,300	151,219	115	12	137,092	112	11	14,127	107	11	9
San Fernando	2	510,111	290,996	219,115	547,150	40	5	482,818	36	4	64,332	70	6	12
San Jose	3	615,192	166,102	449,090	311,171	73	8	267,304	73	8	43,867	91	10	14
San Jose del Monte	2	842,160	334,923	507,237	501,455	41	6	414,853	42	6	86,602	49	4	17
Science City Of Muñoz	5	384,294	124,620	259,674	203,827	112	11	117,801	115	12	86,027	50	5	42
Tarlac	1	1,245,583	445,483	800,100	561,428	39	4	453,755	38	5	107,673	40	2	19
Region 4		22,385,369	8,954,164	13,431,205	8,727,128			6,931,079			1,796,049			21
Antipolo	1	2,000,376	701,184	1,299,192	1,082,589	21	4	878,932	18	2	203,658	21	5	19
Batangas	1	6,235,703	4,382,957	1,852,746	1,113,864	20	3	868,344	19	3	245,520	18	3	22
Calamba	1	2,616,785	495,723	2,121,062	1,148,044	18	2	863,690	20	4	284,355	13	2	25
Calapan	3	416,959	99,059	317,900	294,911	79	11	256,745	76	11	38,167	95	11	13
Cavite	4	402,788	125,813	276,976	245,357	95	12	209,763	90	12	35,594	99	12	15
Lipa	1	1,105,698	178,069	927,629	639,167	34	6	543,926	34	6	95,241	44	8	15
Lucena	2	499,995	285,571	214,424	466,717	44	8	416,165	41	8	50,551	82	10	11
Puerto Princesa	1	3,017,302	1,120,978	1,896,324	1,159,525	17	1	936,149	17	1	223,376	19	4	19
San Pablo	1	918,819	235,321	683,498	498,684	42	7	447,573	39	7	51,111	81	9	10
Sta. Rosa	1	2,171,403	550,306	1,621,097	1,001,133	22	5	713,004	22	5	288,129	11	1	29
Tagaytay	3	1,813,732	616,877	1,196,855	430,528	48	9	310,479	63	9	120,049	36	7	28
Tanauan	3	707,018	83,282	623,736	427,763	49	10	302,911	66	10	124,852	34	6	29
Trece Martires	4	478,792	79,025	399,766	218,846	108	13	183,399	99	13	35,447	100	13	16
Region 5		3,978,889	1,138,489	2,840,400	2,079,725			1,641,217			438,508			21
Iriga	4	219,041	63,073	155,968	233,859	99	5	233,568	84	4	291	115	7	0
Legazpi	2	539,842	144,572	395,270	421,852	53	1	348,092	52	2	73,761	60	2	17
Ligao	4	521,036	33,826	487,211	252,296	92	4	126,867	114	7	125,429	32	1	50
Masbate	4	496,517	194,661	301,856	232,016	102	6	169,505	102	5	62,511	71	4	27
Naga	2	1,294,982	334,685	960,297	421,832	54	2	373,047	43	1	48,784	84	6	12
Sorsogon	4	401,282	198,183	203,099	305,077	77	3	248,605	78	3	56,472	77	5	19
Tabaco	4	506,189	169,490	336,699	212,794	109	7	141,534	110	6	71,260	63	3	33
Region 6		13,058,132	2,882,269	10,175,863	6,004,459			4,939,336			1,065,123			18
Bacolod	1	1,855,867	239,141	1,616,726	791,580	28	2	616,969	26	2	174,611	25	1	22
Bago	2	934,007	102,056	831,951	366,275	63	7	354,256	50	3	12,019	111	15	3
Cadiz	2	936,033	215,381	720,653	413,695	55	5	346,741	53	4	66,955	67	6	16
Escalante	5	455,499	113,830	341,670	232,151	101	15	187,768	97	15	44,385	89	10	19
Himamaylan	4	768,461	228,718	559,743	269,626	87	10	184,671	98	16	84,955	51	5	32
Iloilo	1	1,394,495	335,777	1,058,718	833,344	26	1	711,821	23	1	121,522	35	3	15
Kabankalan	1	1,523,849	221,525	1,302,324	444,640	46	3	299,786	67	7	144,854	28	2	33
La Carlota	4	394,440	95,905	298,535	223,908	106	16	201,687	95	14	22,221	104	14	10
Passi	3	466,211	212,694	253,518	261,656	89	12	225,047	87	10	36,609	97	13	14
Roxas	3	618,495	67,250	551,245	294,088	81	9	251,472	77	9	42,616	92	11	14
Sagay	2	780,497	220,058	560,439	379,688	61	6	330,985	57	5	48,703	85	8	13
San Carlos	2	755,007	84,252	670,754	437,385	47	4	327,439	58	6	109,946	38	4	25
Silay	3	453,120	222,984	230,136	294,654	80	8	288,304	69	8	6,350	113	16	2
Sipalay	4	504,681	109,910	394,771	251,692	93	13	203,366	93	12	48,326	86	9	19
Talisay	3	539,028	231,139	307,889	247,939	94	14	206,857	91	11	41,082	93	12	17
Victorias	3	658,443	181,650	476,793	262,139	88	11	202,169	94	13	59,969	72	7	23
Region 7		10,614,548	2,591,811	8,022,736	3,971,493			3,200,407			771,086			19
Bais	3	781,551	87,937	693,614	269,659	86	9	191,831	96	9	77,829	57	3	29
Bayawan	3	1,006,095	287,065	719,030	400,911	58	3	336,241	56	3	64,670	69	8	16
Canlaon	4	529,264	22,138	507,126	176,075	114	11	157,360	108	11	18,714	106	11	11
Danao	3	606,852	139,478	467,375	308,919	76	5	239,450	80	5	69,469	65	6	22
Dumaguete	3	765,934	119,986	645,948	282,716	85	8	212,754	88	8	69,962	64	5	25
Lapu-lapu	1	2,272,150	815,248	1,456,902	652,781	32	2	577,040	29	2	75,741	58	4	12
Mandaue	1	1,955,970	468,352	1,487,619	723,288	30	1	580,805	28	1	142,483	29	1	20
Tagbilaran	3	617,767	168,428	449,339	291,875	82	6	234,695	83	6	57,181	75	9	20
Talisay	4	757,281	109,262	648,018	283,035	84	7	230,725	85	7	52,310	79	10	18
Tanjay	4	494,482	135,554	358,927	240,851	98	10	176,081	100	10	64,770	68	7	27
Toledo	3	827,202	238,363	588,839	341,384	70	4	263,426	74	4	77,958	56	2	23
Region 8		3,818,875	622,861	3,196,014	1,695,433			1,138,033			557,401			33
Calbayog	1	1,404,920	294,083	1,110,836	580,107	37	2	444,981	40	2	135,125	31	2	23
Maasin	4	453,557	175,293	278,264	226,687	103	3	138,752	111	3	87,934	48	3	39
Ormoc	1	1,960,399	153,485	1,806,913	888,640	23	1	554,299	32	1	334,341	8	1	38
Region 9		7,821,819	1,078,934	6,742,885	2,757,337			1,968,749			788,588			29
Dapitan	3	483,547	86,184	397,363	289,504	83	4	238,317	81	4	51,187	80	4	18
Dipolog	3	887,707	178,473	709,234	309,655	74	3	262,975	75	3	46,680	87	5	15
Isabela	5	411,943	114,888	297,055	222,437	107	5	134,057	113	5	88,380	46	2	40
Pagadian	2	1,523,383	268,647	1,254,736	405,770	56	2	326,714	59	2	79,055	53	3	19
Zamboanga	1	4,515,238	430,742	4,084,496	1,529,971	10	1	1,006,686	15	1	523,286	6	1	34
Region 10		11,288,249	4,248,924	7,039,325	4,570,665			3,883,620			687,045			15
Cagayan de Oro	1	2,933,922	1,309,853	1,624,069	1,219,384	16	1	959,809	16	2	259,575	16	1	21
Gingoog	2	856,658	82,016	774,642	392,112	60	5	280,518	71	6	111,594	37	2	28
Iligan	1	3,830,463	2,080,193	1,750,270	1,142,396	19	2	1,073,260	12	1	69,136	66	4	6
Malaybalay	1	1,867,847	387,921	1,479,927	566,303	38	3	466,755	37	3	99,547	41	3	18
Oroquieta	4	440,328	72,651	367,677	242,230	96	7	206,259	92	7	35,970	98	7	15
Ozamis	3	491,629	108,441	383,188	378,317	62	6	370,304	44	4	8,012	112	8	2
Tangub	4	457,948	61,717	396,231	206,490	111	8	159,823	107	8	46,668	88	6	23
Valencia	3	409,454	146,132	263,322	423,433	51	4	366,891	45	5	56,542	76	5	13
Region 11		5,682,101	1,481,812	4,200,289	4,387,456			3,863,283			524,173			12
Davao	1	3,613,547	855,756	2,757,791	2,930,420	5	1	2,681,302	4	1	249,118	17	1	9
Digos	3	232,651	94,100	138,551	361,339	66	3	307,539	64	3	53,800	78	4	15
Island Garden City of Samal	3	377,946	87,564	290,381	252,354	91	5	239,737	79	5	12,617	110	5	5
Panabo	4	585,222	167,959	417,262	359,684	67	4	276,063	72	4	83,621	52	3	23
Tagum	1	872,735	276,432	596,303	483,659	43	2	358,641	46	2	125,018	33	2	26
Region 12		4,321,478	942,624	3,378,854	2,330,289			1,884,858			445,431			19
Cotabato	2	584,953	234,545	350,408	335,092	72	4	313,561	62	4	21,531	105	5	6
General Santos	1	2,022,504	329,633	1,692,872	881,233	24	1	708,781	24	1	172,452	26	1	20
Kidapawan	2	720,279	256,995	463,284	425,694	50	3	337,603	55	3	88,091	47	3	21
Koronadal	3	573,301	49,522	523,778	447,000	45	2	357,828	48	2	89,172	45	2	20
Tacurong	4	420,440	71,929	348,512	241,271	97	5	167,086	104	5	74,184	59	4	31
Region 13		3,693,702	813,202	2,880,500	1,517,953			1,245,348			272,606			18
Bislig	4	613,359	131,372	481,987	361,752	65	3	288,429	68	3	73,323	61	2	20
Butuan	1	2,302,150	566,927	1,735,223	755,265	29	1	605,786	27	1	149,479	27	1	20
Surigao	2	778,193	114,903	663,289	400,937	57	2	351,133	51	2	49,804	83	3	12
Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao		755,432	73,982	681,450	253,123			174,652			78,471			31
Marawi	4	755,432	73,982	681,450	253,123	90	1	174,652	101	1	78,471	55	1	31
GRAND TOTAL		215,691,775	59,132,294	156,559,480	90,561,813			69,266,062			21,295,751			24

Difference between totals and sum of components is due to rounding off
Rank
1-Nationwide Ranking
2-Regionwide Ranking

LGUs with unsubmitted year-end financial reports as of cut-off date of June 15, 2007

Provinces	*Cities*
1) Agusan del Norte	*1) Cebu*
2) Bohol	*2) Tacloban*

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
COMMISSION ON AUDIT
Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City

FINANCIAL REPORTS OF MUNICIPALITIES
NCR, REGION 1, CAR AND REGION 2
Fiscal Year 2006
(in thousand pesos)

Local Government Units	Class	Balance Sheet			Statement of Income and Expenses									
		Total Assets	Total Liabilities	Total Equity	Total Income	Rank		Total Expenses	Rank		Net Income (Net Loss)	Rank		% of Net Income (Net Loss) to Total Income
						1	2		1	2		1	2	
NCR		3,132,896	1,108,607	2,024,290	1,170,333			944,667			225,667			19
Navotas	1	839,278	321,542	517,736	389,916		2	324,548		2	65,368		2	17
Pateros	1	187,509	66,773	120,737	93,852		3	89,701		3	4,151		3	4
San Juan	1	2,106,109	720,292	1,385,817	686,565		1	530,418		1	156,148		1	23
REGION 1		9,123,880	2,430,698	6,693,181	5,557,289			4,462,278			1,095,011			20
Ilocos Norte		1,420,436	239,343	1,181,093	932,247			746,738			165,509			20
Adams	5	36,084	3,512	32,572	21,081	112	20	17,341	107	20	3,740	105	19	18
Bacarra	3	52,291	29,612	22,679	48,472	41	5	39,572	40	5	8,900	49	10	18
Badoc	3	102,340	17,138	85,201	46,529	45	6	36,120	45	6	10,409	37	6	22
Bangui	4	68,335	7,752	60,583	40,791	65	13	31,551	61	12	9,241	47	9	23
Banna	4	22,509	1,236	21,273	32,133	84	16	27,565	81	16	4,568	98	16	14
Batac	1	239,052	21,599	217,453	108,974	1	1	82,564	5	1	26,410	1	1	24
Burgos	5	27,530	3,267	24,263	27,412	102	19	22,952	93	18	4,459	97	17	16
Carasi	5	21,105	1,232	19,873	19,104	116	21	13,772	117	22	5,332	89	14	28
Currimao	5	43,573	4,692	38,881	28,810	98	18	26,534	85	17	2,276	110	21	8
Dingras	3	74,914	18,196	56,718	51,037	39	4	48,995	31	3	2,043	112	22	4
Dumalneg	5	23,311	6,283	17,027	18,100	117	22	14,559	114	21	3,540	106	20	20
Marcos	4	33,129	12,593	20,536	31,553	86	17	21,274	99	19	10,279	40	8	33
Nueva Era	4	46,514	6,358	40,156	42,808	56	8	34,760	48	7	8,048	62	11	19
Pagudpud	4	90,485	7,694	82,792	41,819	59	10	29,618	73	14	12,200	25	3	29
Paoay	4	64,018	10,322	53,696	39,835	68	14	33,310	55	10	6,525	77	13	16
Pasuquin	4	56,596	8,885	47,711	46,336	47	7	34,173	51	8	12,163	26	4	26
Piddig	4	50,770	21,199	29,570	41,083	64	12	33,726	52	9	7,358	70	12	18
Pinili	4	77,637	4,066	73,571	41,712	61	11	30,951	65	13	10,760	34	5	26
San Nicolas	3	117,660	18,924	98,736	61,475	30	3	43,609	36	4	17,866	12	2	29
Sarrat	4	45,056	6,455	38,602	33,148	80	15	29,236	76	15	3,912	104	18	12
Solsona	4	76,118	19,964	56,154	42,678	57	9	32,312	58	11	10,365	38	7	24
Vintar	2	51,411	8,365	43,046	67,357	27	2	62,243	17	2	5,114	91	15	8
Ilocos Sur		2,431,894	464,503	1,967,390	1,166,502			842,264.2			324,237.9			28
Alilem	4	46,763	5,735	41,028	30,961	92	17	22,727	95	17	8,234	59	19	27
Banayoyo	5	84,499	5,899	78,600	29,212	96	20	17,722	105	25	11,490	28	11	39
Bantay	4	64,935	12,536	52,399	46,216	49	9	32,491	57	8	13,725	22	8	30
Burgos	4	76,694	6,964	69,730	27,603	101	24	19,951	102	22	7,652	69	22	28
Cabugao	2	147,631	11,715	135,915	65,492	28	2	50,830	28	1	14,662	20	6	22
Cacayan	5	20,704	8,665	12,040	28,436	99	22	26,104	86	14	2,333	109	30	8
Cervantes	4	84,453	54,758	29,695	34,635	77	13	30,016	71	13	4,619	95	27	13
Galimuyod	5	72,971	8,769	64,202	28,119	100	23	17,656	106	26	10,464	36	15	37
Gregorio del Pilar	4	64,040	5,492	58,548	19,925	114	31	16,898	110	28	3,027	107	29	15
Lidlidda	5	33,762	8,268	25,494	20,282	113	30	21,168	100	20	(886)	116	32	(4)
Magsingal	3	121,862	33,479	88,383	46,526	46	7	30,972	64	11	15,554	19	5	33
Nagbukel	5	48,156	1,316	46,840	24,979	105	25	17,169	108	27	7,811	65	21	31
Narvacan	2	210,585	75,745	134,840	71,076	20	1	46,168	35	3	24,908	3	1	35
Quirino	4	45,486	12,535	32,950	33,551	79	15	25,714	87	15	7,837	63	20	23
Salcedo	4	58,644	7,929	50,715	44,315	53	10	20,664	101	21	23,651	4	2	53
San Emilio	4	54,993	4,172	50,822	31,335	89	16	21,332	98	19	10,003	42	16	32
San Esteban	5	51,598	1,513	50,084	24,866	106	26	18,230	104	24	6,636	75	23	27
San Ildefonso	5	45,871	7,845	38,026	29,642	95	19	15,644	113	30	13,998	21	7	47
San Juan	4	137,666	21,308	116,358	46,254	48	8	34,746	49	5	11,508	27	10	25
San Vicente	4	53,962	9,226	44,736	24,290	108	28	16,036	112	29	8,254	58	18	34
Santa	4	55,974	6,764	49,210	41,809	60	11	30,896	67	12	10,913	33	14	26
Santa Catalina	5	13,060	1,001	12,059	23,319	109	29	19,127	103	23	4,192	102	28	18
Santa Lucia	3	102,933	11,505	91,428	34,449	78	14	32,296	59	9	2,153	111	31	6
Santiago	3	27,383	3,835	23,547	29,965	94	18	23,897	91	16	6,068	80	25	20
Sigay	3	45,815	9,378	36,438	24,767	107	27	13,844	116	32	10,923	32	13	44
Sinait	5	127,458	10,824	116,633	46,796	44	6	33,163	56	7	13,633	23	9	29
Sta. Cruz	5	56,123	7,956	48,167	60,124	31	3	37,788	42	4	22,336	6	3	37
Sta. Maria	3	228,310	49,248	179,062	51,406	38	5	34,244	50	6	17,162	14	4	33
Sto. Domingo	4	40,577	13,226	27,351	40,079	67	12	31,278	63	10	8,801	51	17	22
Sugpon	5	62,894	22,582	40,313	19,349	115	32	14,185	115	31	5,164	90	26	27
Suyo	4	61,150	16,838	44,512	28,931	97	21	22,450	96	18	6,481	79	24	22
Tagudin	3	84,941	7,679	77,263	57,794	35	4	46,860	34	2	10,934	31	12	19
La Union		1,577,316	500,194	1,077,122	949,129			734,856			214,273			23
Agoo	1	121,384	525	120,859	82,436	9	2	64,603	13	2	17,834	13	3	22
Aringay	3	54,452	3,924	50,528	53,805	37	8	36,747	44	8	17,058	15	4	32
Bacnotan	2	260,023	46,522	213,501	73,359	14	3	47,184	33	7	26,176	2	1	36
Bagulin	5	22,611	2,278	20,334	26,657	104	18	22,263	97	18	4,394	101	19	16
Balaoan	2	53,555	33,213	20,341	69,987	22	5	50,400	29	6	19,587	9	2	28
Bangar	3	49,317	14,879	34,438	43,404	55	10	29,838	72	11	13,567	24	7	31
Bauang	1	383,139	274,368	108,772	92,479	5	1	83,261	4	1	9,218	48	9	10
Burgos	5	29,770	1,333	28,436	22,692	110	19	17,167	109	19	5,524	87	16	24
Caba	4	61,643	6,507	55,136	31,364	88	16	24,316	89	15	7,048	73	14	22
Luna	4	39,960	6,551	33,409	44,608	51	9	28,299	78	13	16,310	17	6	37
Naguilian	1	109,910	29,805	80,104	71,497	17	4	54,477	25	4	17,020	16	5	24
Pugo	5	40,989	15,860	25,129	27,199	103	17	22,770	94	17	4,429	100	18	16
Rosario	2	46,905	12,244	34,661	67,580	25	6	60,664	19	3	6,917	74	15	10
San Gabriel	4	65,271	10,124	55,147	32,203	83	15	23,849	92	16	8,354	56	12	26
San Juan	3	42,937	4,801	38,136	59,207	34	7	52,006	27	5	7,200	72	13	12
Santol	4	34,047	1,711	32,336	35,445	76	14	30,741	68	10	4,703	94	17	13
Sto. Tomas	4	88,411	19,491	68,921	41,121	63	11	32,290	60	9	8,831	50	10	21
Sudipen	4	35,308	10,757	24,551	35,949	75	13	24,626	88	14	11,323	29	8	31
Tubao	4	37,684	5,300	32,384	38,136	73	12	29,356	75	12	8,779	53	11	23
Pangasinan		3,694,234	1,226,658	2,467,576	2,509,411			2,138,420			370,991			15
Agno	4	51,830	22,415	29,414	39,208	70	33	34,778	47	29	4,430	99	38	11
Aguilar	3	51,963	2,163	49,800	43,901	54	28	33,422	54	31	10,479	35	8	24
Alcala	4	40,578	2,939	37,639	44,967	50	26	37,232	43	27	7,735	66	22	17
Anda	4	54,093	16,869	37,224	41,833	58	29	33,646	53	30	8,187	60	19	20
Asingan	3	111,843	10,550	101,293	59,944	32	20	48,784	32	22	11,160	30	7	19
Balungao	4	32,649	3,910	28,739	32,356	82	38	28,187	80	39	4,170	103	39	13
Bani	3	68,865	24,933	43,932	55,018	36	22	53,595	26	20	1,423	114	42	3
Basista	4	31,619	6,760	24,859	31,779	85	39	27,333	82	40	4,445	98	37	14
Bautista	4	32,370	8,729	23,641	31,108	91	42	30,054	70	35	1,054	115	43	3
Bayambang	1	90,546	36,395	54,151	88,580	8	6	83,768	3	3	4,813	93	36	5
Binalonan	2	170,889	71,924	98,964	71,093	19	14	55,142	23	18	15,951	18	6	22
Binmaley	2	110,322	41,921	68,401	76,392	13	10	66,809	11	9	9,582	45	13	13
Bolinao	3	72,298	14,926	57,372	71,515	16	12	65,786	12	10	5,729	83	30	8
Bugallon	3	79,020	9,932	69,087	59,214	33	21	49,042	30	21	10,171	41	10	17
Burgos	4	29,808	5,232	24,576	33,134	81	37	26,559	84	42	6,574	76	26	20
Calasiao	2	133,116	33,080	100,036	88,690	7	5	69,614	10	8	19,077	11	5	22
Dasol	4	61,393	9,686	51,707	40,553	66	31	30,590	69	34	9,963	43	11	25
Infanta	4	43,425	16,267	27,158	39,026	71	34	31,316	62	32	7,710	68	24	20
Labrador	4	53,231	4,194	49,037	30,516	93	43	24,031	90	43	6,485	78	27	21
Laoac	4	31,807	9,739	22,068	31,233	90	41	28,296	79	38	2,937	108	40	9
Lingayen	1	96,465	44,841	51,624	91,146	6	4	69,741	9	7	21,405	7	2	23
Mabini	4	35,653	6,654	28,999	38,954	72	35	29,009	77	37	9,945	44	12	26
Malasiqui	1	144,636	45,999	98,637	96,948	3	2	86,655	2	2	10,293	39	9	11
Manaoag	2	91,226	13,039	78,187	61,570	29	19	56,222	22	17	5,347	88	34	9
Mangaldan	1	133,877	13,130	120,748	95,308	4	3	87,143	1	1	8,166	61	20	9
Mangatarem	2	126,358	58,121	68,237	71,550	15	11	72,548	8	6	(998)	117	44	(1)
Mapandan	4	61,381	25,767	35,614	41,540	62	30	35,953	46	28	5,586	86	33	13
Natividad	4	29,214	10,543	18,671	31,429	87	40	29,467	74	36	1,963	113	41	6
Pozorrubio	2	178,762	52,021	126,741	79,427	11	8	60,098	20	15	19,329	10	4	24
Rosales	2	76,884	7,483	69,401	67,814	24	17	62,147	18	14	5,667	85	32	8
San Fabian	2	55,273	18,969	36,304	71,481	18	13	62,701	16	13	8,780	52	15	12
San Jacinto	3	107,138	93,156	13,982	44,384	52	27	38,684	41	26	5,700	84	31	13
San Manuel	2	99,817	33,593	66,223	67,513	26	18	59,215	21	16	8,299	57	18	12
San Nicolas	3	114,083	88,012	26,072	70,902	21	15	63,182	15	12	7,720	67	23	11
San Quintin	4	57,658	1,781	55,877	39,538	69	32	30,921	66	33	8,616	55	17	22
Santa Barbara	3	118,660	17,015	101,644	81,785	10	7	73,018	7	5	8,767	54	16	11
Sison	1	142,525	70,554	71,971	47,940	42	24	42,004	37	23	5,935	82	29	12
Sta. Maria	4	39,229	9,804	29,424	36,464	74	36	26,914	83	41	9,550	46	14	26
Sto. Tomas	5	23,326	2,401	20,925	22,416	111	44	16,387	111	44	6,029	81	28	27
Sual	1	311,275	180,142	131,133	98,622	2	1	78,948	6	4	19,674	8	3	20
Tayug	3	55,129	16,357	38,772	48,811	40	23	40,985	38	24	7,826	64	21	16
Umingan	2	29,977	3,810	26,168	69,162	23	16	64,171	14	11	4,991	92	35	7
Urbiztondo	3	73,389	33,610	39,778	46,979	43	25	39,761	39	25	7,218	71	25	15
Villasis	2	140,635	27,291	113,344	77,669	12	9	54,561	24	19	23,108	5	1	30
Cordillera Administrative Region		2,945,747	850,076	2,095,671	2,808,409			2,262,207			546,201			19
Abra		499,998	112,396	387,602	721,485			609,012			112,473			16
Baay-Licuan	5	15,894	5,264	10,630	24,282	56	11	19,524	63	17	4,758	38	10	20
Bangued	1	133,969	36,436	97,533	77,298	7	1	67,508	4	1	9,790	16	2	13
Boliney	5	8,630	252	8,379	26,586	48	7	22,130	52	8	4,456	42	11	17
Bucay	5	9,415	8,417	998	23,730	58	13	22,466	50	7	1,264	67	20	5
Bucloc	5	13,049	1,916	11,133	21,378	68	22	13,972	75	26	7,406	21	5	35
Daguioman	5	5,961	1,894	4,067	19,744	73	25	18,861	66	19	883	69	21	4
Danglas	5	23,351	5,330	18,021	21,868	65	19	17,484	69	21	4,384	43	12	20
Dolores	5	22,374	1,157	21,217	25,184	53	8	20,156	59	14	5,028	36	9	20
La Paz	5	16,401	7,929	8,471	22,118	64	18	21,323	55	10	795	71	22	4
Lacub	5	20,115	1,626	18,489	27,749	44	5	22,701	45	6	5,048	34	7	18
Lagangilang	5	18,388	1,992	16,396	24,545	55	10	20,712	57	12	3,833	49	15	16
Lagayan	5	8,859	209	8,650	24,102	57	12	23,319	42	5	782	72	23	3
Langiden	5	9,124	2,725	6,400	19,128	75	26	18,902	65	18	227	75	26	1
Luba	5	6,671	1,786	4,886	24,684	54	9	21,675	54	9	3,009	59	17	12
Malibcong	5	13,154	798	12,356	27,659	45	6	23,376	41	4	4,283	44	13	15
Manabo	5	21,037	1,549	19,488	33,451	28	4	17,321	70	22	16,130	9	1	48
Penarrubia	5	8,513	3,747	4,765	16,589	76	27	13,176	76	27	3,413	52	16	21
Pidigan	5	14,076	3,298	10,778	22,213	62	16	15,580	73	24	6,633	26	6	30
Pilar	5	16,142	3,832	12,310	21,791	66	20	16,743	72	23	5,048	35	8	23
Sallapadan	5	13,082	726	12,356	21,673	67	21	19,730	61	15	1,943	68	19	9
San Isidro	5	5,866	5,420	446	20,014	71	23	19,647	62	16	366	74	25	2
San Juan	5	10,950	5,773	5,177	22,189	63	17	18,338	68	20	3,851	48	14	17
San Quintin	5	6,597	990	5,607	22,466	61	15	14,697	74	25	7,769	20	4	35
Tayum	5	23,091	4,340	18,750	23,276	60	14	20,495	58	13	2,780	60	18	12
Tineg	3	33,181	229	32,953	51,393	14	2	42,555	10	2	8,837	18	3	17
Tubo	4	16,995	1,493	15,503	36,403	23	3	35,704	19	3	699	73	24	2
Villaviciosa	5	5,111	3,267	1,844	19,972	72	24	20,915	56	11	(943)	76	27	(5)
Apayao		536,927	128,366	408,562	356,897			273,508			83,389			23
Calanasan	1	152,065	49,668	102,397	87,362	4	1	66,179	5	1	21,183	4	1	24
Conner	3	68,898	6,395	62,502	52,650	11	4	39,982	16	4	12,668	12	4	24
Flora	4	49,273	27,088	22,185	38,065	20	5	34,593	20	5	3,472	51	7	9
Kabugao	2	83,827	25,352	58,475	61,399	9	2	41,962	12	2	19,437	5	2	32
Luna	3	103,676	11,971	91,705	57,546	10	3	40,891	14	3	16,655	8	3	29
Pudtol	4	53,718	3,629	50,088	30,495	37	6	25,583	36	6	4,913	37	6	16
Sta. Marcela	5	25,471	4,262	21,208	29,380	40	7	24,318	39	7	5,062	33	5	17
Benguet		893,766	272,899	620,867	676,510			509,749			166,760			25
Atok	4	31,592	10,525	21,067	32,728	31	9	28,028	30	9	4,700	39	9	14
Bakun	4	30,816	18,413	12,403	47,611	17	5	41,777	13	5	5,834	29	6	12
Bokod	4	30,001	10,113	19,888	34,564	25	7	28,399	20	8	6,164	28	5	18
Buguias	3	44,506	13,997	30,508	43,784	19	6	40,626	15	6	3,159	57	12	7
Itogon	1	131,071	47,777	83,294	82,126	5	3	68,090	3	2	14,037	11	4	17
Kabayan	4	28,371	6,508	21,862	31,022	36	11	26,818	32	10	4,204	46	10	14
Kapangan	4	46,850	23,820	23,030	32,044	34	10	26,769	33	11	5,274	31	8	16
Kibungan	4	27,099	13,484	13,616	34,110	26	8	31,804	22	7	2,305	63	13	7
La Trinidad	1	241,279	69,214	172,064	113,090	1	1	80,566	2	1	32,525	3	3	29
Mankayan	3	83,877	25,767	58,110	90,121	3	2	47,763	6	3	42,358	1	1	47
Sablan	5	26,343	8,709	17,633	27,985	42	12	22,446	51	13	5,538	30	7	20
Tuba	2	140,676	19,839	120,840	80,655	6	4	43,404	9	4	37,251	2	2	46
Tublay	5	31,283	4,732	26,551	26,671	47	13	23,259	43	12	3,412	53	11	13
Ifugao		342,401	101,051	241,350	367,320			318,026			49,295			13
Aguinaldo	3	49,204	8,691	40,513	49,543	15	1	39,625	17	1	9,918	15	1	20
Alfonso Lista	3	48,294	12,459	35,835	48,180	16	2	38,527	18	2	9,653	17	2	20
Asipulo	5	20,807	4,913	15,894	25,884	52	10	22,577	47	10	3,307	56	7	13
Banaue	4	30,441	9,383	21,058	37,143	22	3	30,743	24	5	6,400	27	3	17
Hingyon	5	17,268	5,639	11,629	19,295	74	11	16,906	71	11	2,388	62	9	12
Hungduan	4	34,469	12,783	21,686	27,870	43	8	26,979	31	7	891	68	10	3
Kiangan	4	24,892	8,780	16,111	30,335	39	7	26,063	35	8	4,272	45	6	14
Lagawe	4	20,959	3,041	17,918	35,404	24	4	30,889	23	4	4,515	41	5	13
Lamut	4	41,111	6,625	34,486	33,196	30	6	32,385	21	3	811	70	11	2
Mayoyao	4	34,508	17,668	16,839	33,716	27	5	29,062	27	6	4,654	40	4	14
Tinoc	5	20,448	11,069	9,379	26,755	46	9	24,269.2	40	9	2,485	61	8	9
Kalinga		411,946	146,543	265,403	362,955			277,839			85,116			23
Balbalan	3	53,713	3,891	49,822	44,199	18	3	29,686	26	3	14,514	10	3	33
Lubuagan	4	29,381	14,735	14,646	29,010	41	7	21,951	53	8	7,058	23	5	24
Pasil	5	14,892	475	14,417	26,154	51	8	22,470	49	7	3,685	50	8	14
Pinukpuk	2	69,847	11,251	58,596	64,122	8	2	46,807	7	2	17,314	7	2	27
Rizal	4	28,384	4,819	23,565	31,699	35	6	24,681	38	5	7,019	24	6	22
Tabuk	1	168,029	104,087	63,943	102,006	2	1	83,289	1	1	18,717	6	1	18
Tanudan	4	29,885	4,323	25,562	32,544	32	5	22,611	46	6	9,933	13	4	31
Tinglayan	4	17,815	2,962	14,852	33,222	29	4	26,344	34	4	6,877	25	7	21
Mt. Province		260,708	88,821	171,887	323,240			274,073			49,167			15
Barlig	5	21,172	6,943	14,229	26,254	50	7	23,131	44	6	3,123	58	8	12
Bauko	4	18,575	5,275	13,300	37,726	21	3	30,406	25	3	7,320	22	3	19
Besao	5	34,370	16,605	17,765	26,482	49	6	22,526	48	7	3,956	47	5	15
Bontoc	3	60,484	30,681	29,803	52,039	13	2	42,107	11	2	9,932	14	1	19
Natonin	4	24,683	1,462	23,221	30,424	38	5	25,304	37	5	5,121	32	4	17
Paracelis	3	34,205	8,016	26,189	52,499	12	1	43,798	8	1	8,701	19	2	17
Sabangan	5	9,778	3,413	6,364	21,241	69	9	19,040	64	9	2,201	64	9	10
Sadanga	5	17,135	6,774	10,361	20,898	70	10	18,789	67	10	2,109	65	10	10
Sagada	5	25,526	5,224	20,302	23,344	59	8	20,016	60	8	3,328	55	7	14
Tadian	4	14,780	4,429	10,352	32,332	33	4	28,956	28	4	3,376	54	6	10
REGION 2		6,265,620	2,478,149	3,787,470	4,514,002			3,941,985			572,017			13
Batanes		160,750	99,697	61,053	100,851			94,109			6,742			7
Basco	5	66,327	52,908	13,420	26,267	81	1	25,946	75	1	320	82	4	1
Itbayat	5	25,889	10,065	15,825	16,890	87	3	16,602	86	2	288	83	5	2
Ivana	6	16,097	5,259	10,838	13,298	89	5	12,176	89	5	1,122	76	3	8
Mahatao	6	18,587	9,073	9,515	17,351	86	2	12,957	88	4	4,394	53	1	25
Sabtang	5	12,625	9,206	3,410	14,183	88	4	14,750	87	3	(567)	88	6	(4)
Uyugan	6	21,224	13,187	8,037	12,862	90	6	11,678	90	6	1,184	75	2	9
Cagayan		2,059,609	618,147	1,441,461	1,444,014			1,224,160			219,854			15
Abulug	4	75,528	54,617	20,911	40,063	53	19	37,387	49	8	2,677	64	20	7
Alcala	3	46,881	37,487	9,394	44,192	50	17	43,860	34	21	332	81	27	1
Allacapan	3	39,287	13,669	25,618	47,586	39	13	43,426	36	6	4,160	54	16	9
Amulung	3	74,270	13,987	60,283	47,577	40	15	44,131	33	3	3,446	58	19	7
Aparri	1	141,408	26,188	115,220	79,041	12	5	51,900	24	24	27,141	1	1	34
Baggao	1	189,670	26,253	163,417	103,901	3	1	76,961	8	2	26,940	2	2	26
Ballesteros	4	49,522	19,959	29,563	37,997	59	22	33,570	59	5	4,427	52	17	12
Buguey	4	53,845	33,198	20,647	38,060	58	21	35,706	52	26	2,354	69	21	6
Calayan	3	92,628	24,600	68,028	44,909	46	16	37,273	50	10	7,636	31	12	17
Camalaniugan	4	34,947	12,546	22,401	34,559	65	23	30,856	66	20	3,703	56	18	11
Claveria	3	52,574	13,871	38,703	45,620	43	14	35,491	53	23	10,128	19	7	22
Enrile	4	26,695	31,137	(4,441.1)	40,911	52	18	39,364	45	22	1,547	70	22	4
Gattaran	1	93,943	30,775	63,168	82,509	10	4	76,369	9	4	6,139	40	15	7
Gonzaga	2	89,418	42,196	47,222	63,033	22	8	55,001	21	17	8,032	27	11	13
Iguig	4	36,052	22,848	13,205	31,600	71	25	31,212	64	14	388	79	24	1
Lallo	2	89,280	45,491	43,789	89,212	7	3	78,776	5	1	10,435	15	6	12
Lasam	3	60,801	14,001	46,801	49,066	36	11	41,735	41	9	7,331	34	14	15
Pamplona	4	72,706	14,597	58,109	32,945	70	24	24,398	77	19	8,547	25	10	26
Peñablanca	1	154,332	14,931	139,401	89,981	6	2	77,577	7	7	12,405	10	5	14
Piat	4	69,424	9,849	59,575	54,059	30	9	27,573	73	12	26,486	3	3	49
Rizal	5	36,583	1,719	34,864	26,582	80	27	25,262	76	27	1,319	73	23	5
Sanchez-Mira	4	40,210	15,070	25,140	39,706	56	20	32,077	63	13	7,630	32	13	19
Santa Ana	3	50,432	10,431	40,001	48,478	37	12	48,116	29	15	363	80	26	1
Santa Praxedes	5	115,482	36,160	79,323	69,706	17	6	51,511	25	11	18,196	4	4	26
Santa Teresita	4	14,734	4,020	10,713	18,317	85	28	17,465	85	28	852	77	25	5
Santo Nino	3	46,621	19,176	27,445	29,207	76	26	29,118	68	18	89	84	28	0
Solana	2	63,472	10,927	52,545	51,730	31	10	43,138	38	16	8,592	23	8	17
Tuao	2	148,862	18,445	130,417	63,465	21	7	54,906	22	25	8,559	24	9	13
Isabela		2,817,470	1,398,700	1,418,770	1,889,996			1,674,666			215,330			11
Alicia	2	113,979	85,265	28,714	76,426	14	6	66,900	12	6	9,526	20	10	12
Angadanan	3	126,545	96,486	30,059	44,840	47	19	40,172	44	17	4,668	50	22	10
Aurora	4	158,971	118,202	40,768	45,080	45	18	38,814	47	18	6,266	39	15	14
Benito Soliven	4	36,793	14,541	22,252	35,865	61	23	31,127	65	27	4,738	49	21	13
Burgos	5	84,475	58,523	25,952	29,318	74	32	29,292	67	28	26	85	32	0
Cabagan	2	32,889	28,319	4,570	62,129	25	11	55,822	19	10	6,307	38	14	10
Cabatuan	4	45,831	33,392	12,439	45,373	44	17	40,422	43	16	4,950	47	19	11
Cordon	3	64,595	26,288	38,307	47,705	38	16	48,296	28	12	(591)	89	35	(1)
Delfin Albano	4	61,471	30,253	31,218	43,029	51	20	34,838	54	21	8,190	26	11	19
Dinapigue	3	63,754	14,858	48,896	66,367	20	8	54,683	23	11	11,684	13	6	18
Divilacan	3	63,616	2,256	61,361	55,588	28	12	45,432	32	14	10,156	18	9	18
Echague	1	146,947	67,085	79,862	102,264	4	3	86,730	4	3	15,534	6	1	15
Gamu	4	29,965	12,197	17,767	35,660	62	24	32,077	62	26	3,583	57	23	10
Ilagan	1	252,436	125,966	126,470	167,355	1	1	153,481	1	1	13,874	8	3	8
Jones	2	66,408	40,102	26,306	78,841	13	5	76,335	10	4	2,506	66	28	3
Luna	5	24,693	14,219	10,473	28,111	78	34	28,261	71	31	(150)	87	34	(1)
Maconacon	4	29,780	4,149	25,631	40,047	54	21	37,073	51	20	2,973	61	25	7
Mallig	4	87,044	45,540	41,504	36,052	60	22	33,662	58	23	2,389	68	29	7
Naguilian	4	37,765	8,875	28,890	34,529	66	27	27,723	72	32	6,806	37	13	20
Palanan	2	65,430	8,104	57,326	62,471	23	9	57,545	17	8	4,926	48	20	8
Quezon	4	65,112	38,764	26,348	34,274	68	29	34,274	55	22	-	86	33	0
Quirino	4	57,165	31,724	25,441	31,273	72	31	28,353	70	30	2,920	63	27	9
Ramon	3	46,078	18,898	27,179	50,772	33	14	47,849	30	13	2,923	62	26	6
Reina Mercedes	5	28,218	11,376	16,842	29,060	77	33	25,949	74	33	3,110	60	24	11
Roxas	2	70,267	20,582	49,685	62,152	24	10	56,188	18	9	5,964	41	16	10
San Agustin	4	45,118	17,826	27,293	49,643	35	15	37,651	48	19	11,992	12	5	24
San Guillermo	4	121,446	77,167	44,280	35,040	63	25	33,563	60	24	1,477	71	30	4
San Isidro	5	66,285	8,279	58,007	27,377	79	35	22,119	82	35	5,258	44	18	19
San Manuel	4	62,848	42,348	20,500	34,417	67	28	33,132	61	25	1,285	74	31	4
San Mariano	1	217,374	62,111	155,263	119,578	2	2	109,274	2	2	10,304	16	7	9
San Mateo	2	160,282	104,140	56,142	72,341	15	7	64,382	14	7	7,959	28	12	11
San Pablo	3	73,755	30,124	43,631	54,511	29	13	42,278	39	15	12,233	11	4	22
Sta. Maria	4	31,705	18,207	13,498	35,002	64	26	29,039	69	29	5,963	42	17	17
Sto. Tomas	4	43,565	32,164	11,401	33,308	69	30	23,070	80	34	10,238	17	8	31
Tumauini	1	134,865	50,369	84,496	84,200	8	4	68,860	11	5	15,340	7	2	18
Nueva Vizcaya		855,063	215,970	639,093	734,528			626,728			107,800			15
A. Castañeda	4	113,633	42,170	71,463	69,216	18	3	60,129	16	3	9,087	22	4	13
Ambaguio	5	17,836	4,120	13,717	24,726	83	15	21,595	83	14	3,131	59	13	13
Aritao	2	38,913	4,245	34,667	55,918	27	5	51,265	26	5	4,653	51	11	8
Bagabag	3	64,700	11,866	52,834	50,223	34	7	43,298	37	8	6,925	36	9	14
Bambang	2	105,193	29,486	75,707	72,212	16	2	64,855	13	1	7,358	33	7	10
Bayombong	2	88,487	40,803	47,683	67,066	19	4	55,565	20	4	11,501	14	3	17
Diadi	4	31,762	5,919	25,843	29,274	75	13	21,553	84	15	7,721	29	5	26
Dupax del Norte	3	35,233	10,581	24,651	44,602	48	10	40,888	42	9	3,713	55	12	8
Dupax del Sur	3	57,050	6,558	50,492	51,501	32	6	43,823	35	7	7,678	30	6	15
Kasibu	3	53,559	10,948	42,611	47,388	41	8	34,263	56	10	13,125	9	2	28
Kayapa	3	39,962	5,511	34,451	46,877	42	9	45,446	31	6	1,431	72	15	3
Quezon	4	34,630	10,526	24,105	30,318	73	12	23,320	79	12	6,998	35	8	23
Solano	1	109,382	20,778	88,604	80,583	11	1	63,704	15	2	16,879	5	1	21
Sta. Fe	4	35,979	6,526	29,453	39,016	57	11	34,034	57	11	4,982	46	10	13
Villaverde	5	28,745	5,932	22,813	25,607	82	14	22,989	81	13	2,618	65	14	10
Quirino		372,728	145,635	227,093	344,614			322,322.8			22,291			6
Aglipay	4	47,465	24,786	22,680	39,786	55	5	38,997	46	5	789	78	5	2
Cabarroguis	3	25,724	8,607	17,117	44,239	49	4	41,810	40	4	2,429	67	4	5
Diffun	3	90,263	31,672	58,591	58,513	26	3	49,188	27	3	9,326	21	1	16
Maddela	1	87,503	41,607	45,896	83,777	9	2	78,370	6	2	5,407	43	2	6
Nagtipunan	1	109,840	33,021	76,819	95,673	5	1	90,521	3	1	5,151	45	3	5
Saguday	5	11,933	5,942	5,991	22,627	84	6	23,438	78	6	(810.5)	90	6	(4)

Difference between totals and sum of components is due to rounding off

Rank 1-Regionwide Ranking 2-Provincewide Ranking

(PDI–Sept. 28, 2007)

Jesus Ledesma Jalandoni, Sr.

Peacefully joined our Creator on September 25, 2007 at the age of 91.

His loving wife, **Angeles Soriano Jalandoni**; children: **Benny** and **Vicky** (†), **Pepet** and **Eileen**, **Jeri** and **Lulie**, **Dee** and **Joey**, **Anna** and **Chris**; grandchildren: **Jamie**, **Ming**, **Nicole**, **Miguel**, **Justin**, **Joseph**, **Angelo**, **Paolo**, **Matthew**, **Kristel**, **Isabelle**, **Marielle**, **Marga**, **Javier**, **Cara**, **Jaime**.

His remains lie in state at Capilla De La Virgen, San Antonio Parish, Forbes Park, Makati City.

Interment will be after the 9:30 a.m. Mass on September 29, 2007.

Please omit flowers.

Our Beloved Tess

MA. THERESA M. ACOSTA

(Wife of John I. Acosta)

Died in the peace of the Lord on September 24, 2007 at the age of 47.

Her remains lie in state at the Loyola Chapels Cubao.

There will be an 11:00 a.m. Mass at the Loyola Chapels Cubao on September 29, 2007.

Interment will follow at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina on the same day, 2:00 p.m.

The family is requesting for your prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Our Dearly Beloved

Former OIC Mayor

Roberto "Bob" T. Catalig

of Hagonoy, Bulacan

Son of the late Ex-Mayor of Hagonoy, Bulacan, Atty. Dominador Catalig and Dra. Mamerta Catalig

Peacefully joined his Creator on Saturday, September 22, 2007 at the age of 60.

His loving wife, WILMA RIVERA-CATALIG; Children Cindy Grace & Anthony, Kristine Ann "Sunshine" & Andrew, Baby Robert Vincent (†), Wilbert Raymond, Ann Marie Joy and Roberto Prince; Grandchildren Brian Zachary, Louis & Vince Steven; Brothers and Sister Marcial & Minerva, Lelet & Oscar, Mol & Pining (†), Dr. Rustico and Jet (†), Willy and Marilou, Boysie and Maribel, Parents-in-law, Mr. & Mrs. Fusting & Anita Rivera, brothers and sisters in-law, nephews and nieces, together with their other relatives and friends requests the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the family ancestral in San Juan, Hagonoy, Bulacan.

Interment will be on October 02, 2007 at the San Juan Memorial Park, Hagonoy, Bulacan after the 2:00 PM mass at St. John the Baptist Church.

PETER COO BENG TIAM QUE ("PETER QUE")

... passed away in the Grace of our Lord on September 26, 2007 at the age of 66.

His bereaved wife **Margarita**; children **Rose Michelle** & **Jojo**, and **Christopher**; siblings **John** (†) & **Raymunda** (†), **Benito** & **Ruby**, **Alice** & **Domingo Go**, **Bengson** & **Debbie**, **Benjie** and **Agnes** and **Bengchun**; other relatives and his friends request the readers to join them in praying for his eternal happiness in heaven.

His body lies in state at Chapel D, Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe, Makati City.

Interment will be on September 30, 2007 at the Manila Memorial Park at 9:00 a.m.

In loving memory

ESMERALDA "Nene" E. AFRICA

Beloved sister and friend

Died in the Grace of our Lord on September 25, 2007 at the age of 78.

May you rest in peace, bathed in God's light.
May you sleep contented in the gentle arms of our Lord.

Her sole surviving sister **Amada A. Unite** and children **Charo**, **Telly**, **Clavel** and **Angelo**; her most cherished best friend **Erlinda R. Ureta**; her sisters-in-law, nieces, nephews and grandchildren ask for your prayers for her eternal repose.

Her body lies in state at 117 Pres. L. Katigbak, Lipa City. Interment will be on Monday, October 1, 2007 at Floral Garden Cemetery after the Holy Mass, 2:00 p.m. at San Sebastian Cathedral, Lipa City, Batangas.

ELENA ASPERILLA MORALES

of Santa Ana, Manila

Peacefully joined her Creator on Wednesday, September 26, 2007 at the age of 86.

She is survived by her children and grandchildren:

Rey and **Fenette Obach**
Ica and **Francine**

Gerry and **Edna Dael**
Sarah, **Paco** and **Franco**

Brother **Jose Asperilla** and sister **Fe Asperilla Cagampang**.

Her remains lie in state at Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe, Makati City.

Cremation will be on Tuesday, October 2, 2007 after the 10:00 a.m. funeral mass.

Death Notice

Amelia Mistades Dumagat

Died Sept. 26, 2007 at the age of 65.

Her body lies in state at her residence, at 1958 J. Patino St., Sta. Ana, Manila.

Interment is on Oct. 2, at Manila South Cemetery, Makati.

Milagros San Pedro Macalino

Died on Sept. 23, 2007 at the age of 72.

Her remains lie in state at Dulce Funeral Homes, Jose Abad Santos cor. Dinalupihan St., Tondo, Manila.

Interment will be on September 29, Saturday, 10:00 a.m. at Eternal Garden Memorial Park, Balintawak, Q.C.

For any inquiries, you may contact Corazon or Elizabeth Macalino at cel. No. 09274688832.

BASILIA "CELY" MUNIZ ABELEDA

Passed away on September 23, 2007 at the age of 77.

HILARIA "NENE" MUNIZ ABELEDA

Passed away on September 26, 2007 at the age of 72.

Their brothers **Gomer**, **Ony** and **Rolly**, sisters **Nene** and **Becky**, brother-in-law, **Pastor** and sisters-in-law, **Luming**, **Agnes** and **Millette**, nephews and nieces & relatives request the readers to pray for the eternal repose of their souls.

Their remains lie in state at Chapel D, La Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on September 30, 2007 at the Himlayang Pilipino after the celebration of the Holy Mass at 8:00 a.m.

People, Events & Products

Grand open house: Corinthian Executive Regency

WAKE UP TO A REFRESHING view of the metropolis... walk your way to the mall for fun and exciting shopping spree, in just a few minutes...go to your workplace without having to experience traffic during rush hours... or simply relax and unwind after a day's work in the comfort of your own home. Experience all these pleasures in one roof... The Corinthian Executive Regency.

Come and join us on Sep. 28 and 29 as Cityland, one of the recognized names in the real estate industry and awarded 2007 Leading Condominium Developer National Awardee (Office of the President, HUDCC-HLURB), holds its open house on one of its newest projects in Ortigas Center—The Corinthian Executive Regency. A 39-story condominium, it is only a lot away from Robinsons Galleria, a few minutes drive to SM Megamall, Shangri-la Plaza, Edsa, Starmall, The Podium, Medical City, schools and other places of interest.

Another Cityland Ortigas project on the rise is the 40-story Grand Emerald Tower, a short distance away from The Corinthian. It will soon dominate three main avenues—Emerald, Garnet and Ruby Streets. With both projects' accessibility to MRT and main thoroughfares like Ortigas and Edsa, The Grand Emerald Tower and The Corinthian Executive Regency are truly ideal and convenient office, commercial and residential addresses.

Amenities such as 24-hour Association security, function room, children's playground, gym, separate sauna for men and women, swimming pool and roof deck jogging area will be provided to meet the demands of today's lifestyle.

Carefully designed office and residential units in studio deluxe, 2-bedroom and 3-bedroom type are available in cash or easy terms. Avail of special discounts given during the open house.

Corinthian Executive Regency

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